'Goma' mad, threatens to unleash 'people power'

STORY ON PAGE A2

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

MONDAY, JULY 30, 2001 ★ 78 PAGES 6 SECTIONS VOL.16 NO. 232 P15

Text from 'dead spot'?

NAYYY!
PA-EXORCISE
NYO NA YAN!

By Philip C. Tubeza

COULD the text messages have come from a "dead spot"?

Victor Pascua had been entombed for nine days, but his relatives and friends continued to receive text messages

TEXT/ A20

WHAT'S INSIDE

- **P39.8B for Globe expansion** BUSINESS / B1
- **Gloria loosens up on GATT** ACROSS / A14
- **PBA: Aces upend SMB** SPORTS / A22
- **Police officer found dead** METRO/ A26

Gloria tells Mike: Cut US trip short

Target: Cops in 'jueteng' areas

FOR FAILING to stamp out "jueteng" in their areas, several high-ranking police officials will be relieved of their posts.

Interior Secretary Joey Lina yesterday said he would announce this week the names of police officers to be relieved, suspended and administratively charged for their failure to curb illegal gambling.

The list includes police chiefs, city and district commanders, and provincial and regional directors, according to the interior secretary.

"No matter how big the accomplishments of these officers are in other fronts, they shall be held accountable and liable for failure to curb illegal gambling," Lina said.

Lina disclosed his plan to name the police officials to be fired after Senate Minority Floor Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. called for a crackdown on illegal gambling

Pimentel challenged President Macapagal-Arroyo to go hard on illegal gambling, especially in her province Pampanga.

He urged Ms Macapagal to crack the whip on suspected gambling lord Rodolfo "Bong" Pineda, allegedly a friend of the President's, to prove that she was serious in fighting corruption.

Lina insisted that the government was "relentlessly" fighting illegal gambling despite ineffective laws against it.

He disclosed that Task Force Jericho of the Department of Inte-

TARGET/ A19

7 chosen Magsaysay awardees

TWO young women at the forefront of the struggle against labor abuses and crimes against women have won this year's Ramon Magsaysay Award for emergent leadership, a new category of Asia's version of the Nobel Prize.

The two are Indonesia's Dita Indah Sari and Cambodia's Oung Chantol, whom the Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation described as "two undaunted women leaders and nation movers in the new millennium."

Carmencita T. Abella, RMAF president, said the foundation introduced the category this year "to

7 CHOSEN/ A20

Mayon girding for another big blast

By Roly Embile
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

LEGAZPI CITY—Mayon yesterday spewed lava and belched huge amounts of gas as pressure continued to build up inside the volcano that may lead to another explosive eruption, according to volcanologists.

High-frequency tremors were accompanied by the continued bulging of the volcano's slopes, according to the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs).

Resident volcanologist Ed Laguerta said these indicated that an active magma system was accumulating pressure.

"If such pressure continues to build up in the following days, an explosive eruption may recur," Phivolcs said in a bulletin.

Alert Level 5, which means that an imminent eruption could occur anytime, remains in effect.

The National Disaster Coordinating Council (NDCC) said the 6-kilometer-radius permanent danger zone, as well the 7-km extended danger zone, should remain off-limits at all times.

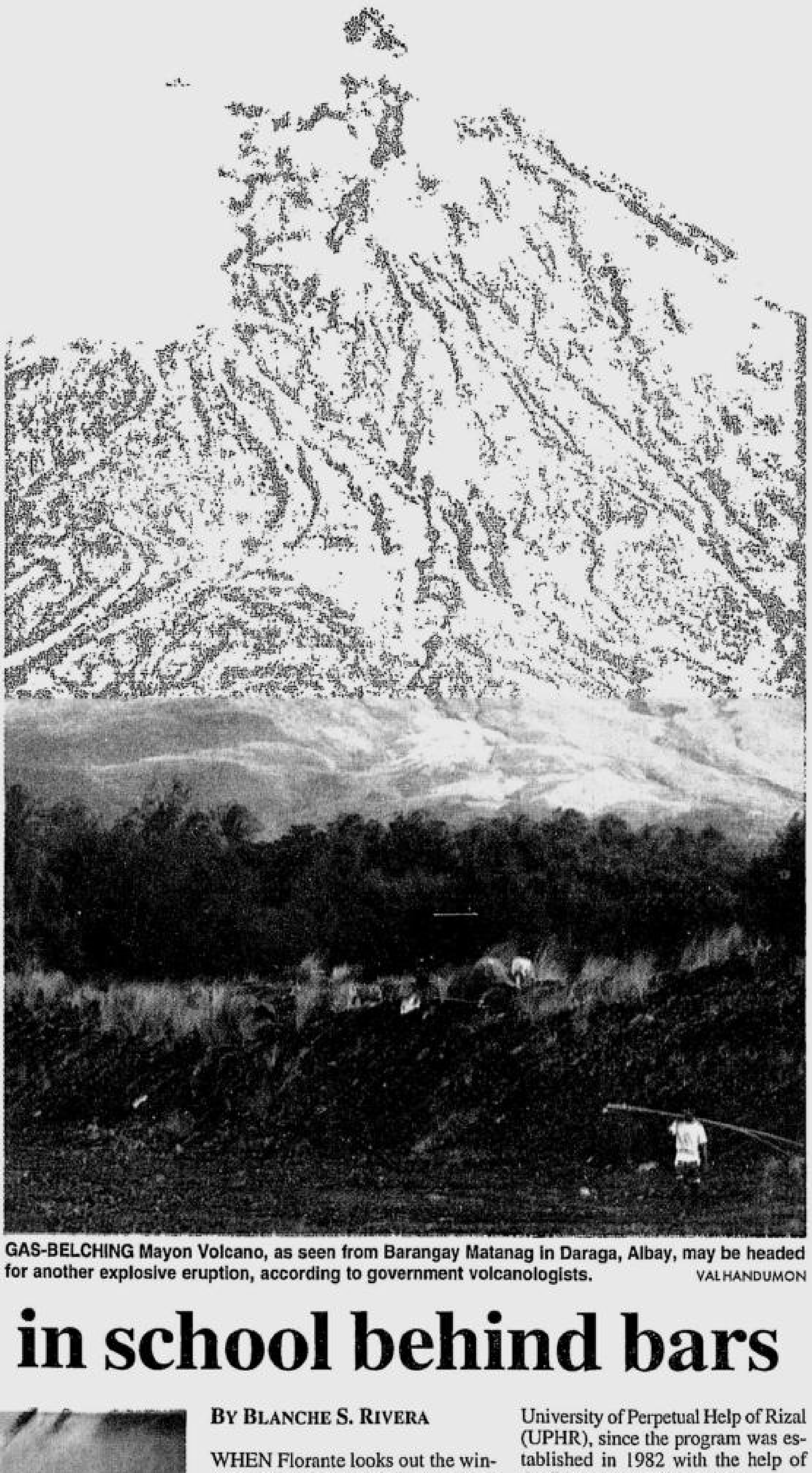
It also advised residents near river channels to guard against hot pyroclastic materials that may be loosened during a heavy rainfall.

The 2,462-meter (8,141-foot) Mayon exploded three times on Thursday, sending towering plumes of sulfuric ash and rocks and triggering flows of superheated lava.

The explosions forced thousands of people from their homes into schools converted into evacuation camps, where officials said living conditions were becoming harsh as supplies were slowly dwindling.

As of Saturday afternoon, 48,774 people from 38 barangays had moved to evacuation centers, according to the NDCC.

MAYON/ A6



GAS-BELCHING Mayon Volcano, as seen from Barangay Matanag in Daraga, Albay, may be headed for another explosive eruption, according to government volcanologists. VAL HANDUMON

GMA to file affidavit on scandal today

By Martin P. Marfil,
Malou Guanzon-Apalisok
PDI Visayas Bureau
and Dona Pazzibugan

ON THE instruction of his wife, First Gentleman Mike Arroyo is cutting short his vacation in the United States by four days, amid allegations that he received a bribe in connection with a vetoed telecommunications franchise bill.

President Macapagal-Arroyo "has told me to return, and I'll return to surprise her because it's our anniversary on Aug. 2 (*Pinababalik ako ni GMA at babalik na rin ako at sosorpresahin ko siya kasi anniversary namin sa Aug. 2*)," Arroyo announced in a radio phone patch from San Francisco yesterday.

Arroyo, who left Manila on Tuesday night in the middle of the influence-peddling scandal, said he planned to be back by Aug. 2 instead of Aug. 6, his original arrival date.

Speaking in his weekly radio program on dzRH, Arroyo did not discuss the allegations against him during the entire one-hour show, and aired only another appeal for political unity.

The President's husband, who had departed saying he was very tired and needed a medical checkup, said he was being treated for bronchitis by Filipino physician Rudy Sotto.

He said he was scheduled for more tests, and had been put on an antibiotic regimen. He added that he and the doctor were planning to play some golf before he returns this week.

He also said his daughter Luli would be pleased to learn that he was five pounds lighter than when she last saw him.

"Please tell Luli that I'm reducing and have already lost five pounds because I'm under medi-

GLORIA/ A19

Palace bribe inquiry should start at veto

By Amando Doronila

ANALYSIS

THE STARTING point of any inquiry into allegations that Mike Arroyo took a P50-million bribe to seek the recall of a presidential veto on a congressional bill granting franchises to two telecommunications companies should be the hard fact that President Macapagal-Arroyo vetoed the franchise.

The President told a news conference on Friday that she had vetoed the franchise, she had not recalled the veto, and the veto would remain.

This fact is incontrovertible and should be recognized by the public and the political opposition.

It should be emphasized that the opposition is glossing over this fact in an effort to blow up First Gentleman Mike Arroyo's involvement into a *cause célèbre* to smear the Macapagal administration.

Having emphasized this, it is clear that most information flowing from the case is hearsay that requires verification. This is where the investigations will have to come in to establish evidence.

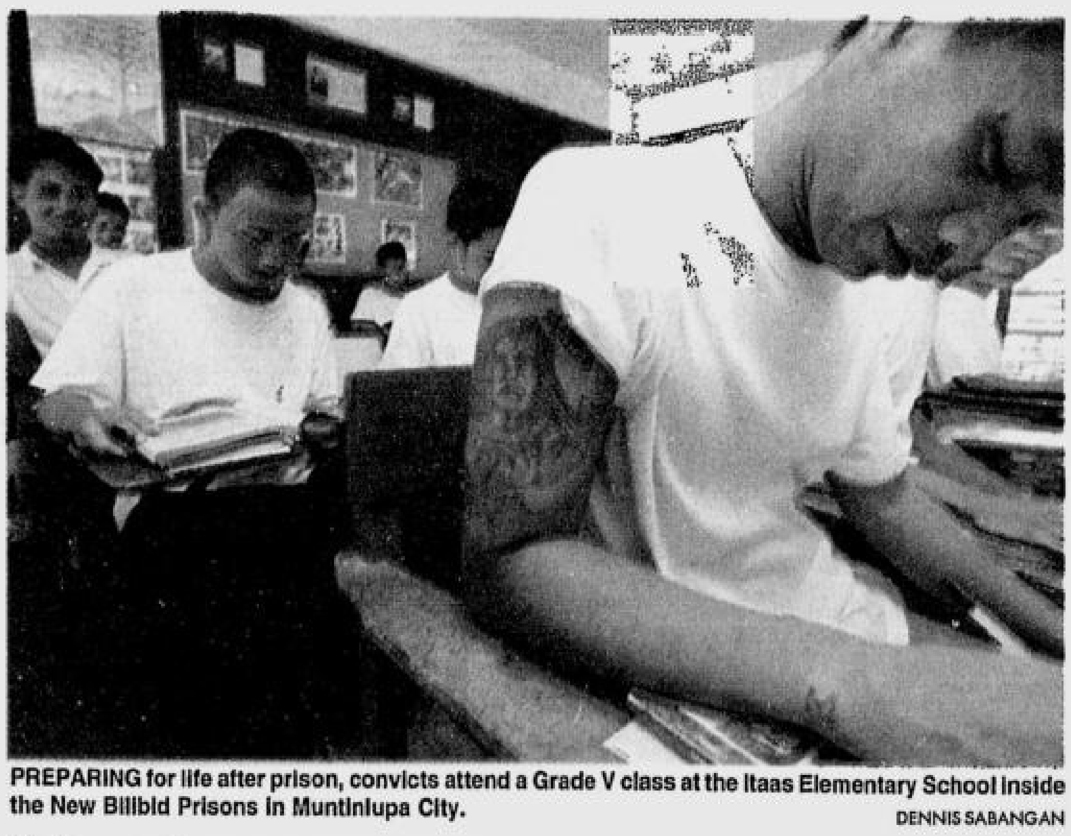
Whether the investigation is conducted by the Office of the Ombudsman or the Senate blue ribbon committee, neither inquiry could start without taking off from ground zero or Kilometer Zero, i.e., the presidential veto.

The veto is the epicenter of the investigation.

The President has asked the Office of the Ombudsman to investigate the allegations. She has also welcomed an investigation by the Senate blue ribbon committee.

PALACE/ A20

Inmates see hope in school behind bars



PREPARING for life after prison, convicts attend a Grade V class at the Itaas Elementary School inside the New Bilibid Prisons in Muntinlupa City. DENNIS SABANGAN

By Blanche S. Rivera

WHEN Florante looks out the window of his classroom at the New Bilibid Prisons, he sees, beyond the bars, a horizon of fresh hope.

Florante, 29, is one of 165 inmates among the penitentiary's 15,000 prisoners who are diligently working for the degree of Bachelor of Science in Commerce, majoring in Small Entrepreneurship, at the Muntinlupa City home of the country's most notorious criminals.

Florante, who was convicted in a homicide case, says education in prison is more dangerous and challenging, but as equally rewarding as it is in the outside world.

"The purpose of going to school here is not so much the academics but rehabilitation," Florante told the INQUIRER in a recent interview. "Education inside prison seeks to change people, to prepare us to live in a free society."

Some 200 inmates have already graduated from the free college education program of the NBP and the University of Perpetual Help of Rizal (UPHR), since the program was established in 1982 with the help of the Rotary Club of Las Piñas.

Every morning, after doffing their prison uniforms and donning civilian clothes, the student-inmates go to school, which in their case is a one-floor structure in the medium-security compound of the NBP.

The classes last from 8 a.m. until around 4 p.m., when the students go to the library to research their assignments and projects until dusk, and then return to their cells in two dormitories reserved for their use.

Inmates with sufficient schooling are encouraged to enroll in college, while semi-illiterate prisoners enroll in elementary or high school. Illiterate detainees are mandated to register for nonformal education.

"The only reason I enrolled on the nonformal level was so I could write to my wife, who did not know that I was in prison," said 33-year-old Marcos, a sixth grader and president of the elementary student council.

INMATES/ A21

Second FRONT PAGE

MAD NA MAD NA SI GOMA! NAGBABANTA NG PEOPLE POWER!!!

'Goma' mad, threatens to unleash 'people power'

GOMEZ: There's no doubt that MAD can mobilize another people power.

By Andrea Trinidad-Echavez

ACTOR and erstwhile party-list representative Richard Gomez threatened Saturday to use "people power" to block the proclamation of the legitimately declared winners in the party-list race.

Gomez blamed winning leftist party-list group Bayan Muna for the Comelec decision which disqualified his group, Mamamayan Ayaw sa Droga (MAD), and other groups from the party-list race for not being truly representative of marginalized sectors of society.

"If Edsa II, where only a million people came, prompted the fall of President Joseph Estrada, there's no doubt that MAD can mobilize another people power with the 1.4 million who voted for us," Gomez said in a late night interview over ABS-CBN News Saturday.

Gomez said MAD supporters would use "people power" to compel both the Supreme Court and the Comelec to overturn their decisions on the party-list issue.

"MAD has more than a million voters who have been disenfranchised that they (the SC and the Comelec) cannot just ignore," Gomez said.

Gomez staunchly supported Estrada until the latter's ouster. He also served in the Estrada administration as a consultant on sports. He used this government exposure and his popularity to head MAD and lead it to second place in the party-list elections.

MAD won over 1.4 million votes in the polls, placing second only to Bayan Muna, which garnered 1.7 million votes.

Bayan Muna later questioned the qualifications of MAD and other "pseudo" party-list groups before the Supreme Court, charging that the groups did not represent marginalized sectors of society.

The other groups included political parties like Promdi and interest groups like Apec and Cibac.

Following Bayan Muna's petition, the Supreme Court ordered the Comelec to re-examine the winning party-list groups to see if they truly represented the under-represented sectors of society.

The high tribunal gave the Comelec one month to do this and on July 26, the poll body released a partial report containing the names of party-list groups disqualified from sitting in Congress.

Bayan Muna legal counsel Neri Colmenares said, "Gomez has no one but himself to blame . . . he made the grave mistake of admitting during a TV interview before the elections that MAD received nearly P5 million last year from the government. This was probably the most damaging evidence against them."

Gomez had admitted in a television interview that MAD had received funds from the Estrada administration, which qualified it as a government agency, not a party-list group.

Thus, Colmenares said, Gomez should not aim his tirade at Bayan Muna or the Supreme Court.

"The issue is now between MAD and the Comelec. Bayan Muna and the two other legitimate party-list groups that won should not be the focus of MAD's anger. We would in fact no longer be affected by any appeals by MAD and the other disqualified groups," Colmenares said.

He also said no amount of threats would stop the proclamation of Bayan Muna and the other winning party-list groups—Akbayan and Butil—on Tuesday as the Supreme Court affirmed in its June 26 order that the decision of the Comelec would be final and executory.

Colmenares said that when Bayan Muna filed its petition questioning the qualifications of MAD and the other groups before the Comelec, and later with the Supreme Court, MAD was represented by its lawyer and was allowed to defend itself during the proceedings.

"He (Gomez) cannot attack the high court now because they lost the case," he said.

Colmenares said that Gomez's reasoning that MAD should not be disqualified because it garnered millions of votes "is erroneous."

"It's just like saying Estrada should not have been replaced because he won millions of votes. If one violates the law, millions of votes should not be a basis for exoneration," he said.

The Bayan Muna lawyer said that rather than issue threats, Gomez and MAD should apologize to the other party-list groups like Promdi, Apec and Cibac for dragging them into the disqualification issue.

"Because of the trouble MAD brought to the party-list elections, these groups suffered," he said.

Describing the Comelec decision as "historic," Colmenares said it would effectively prevent "traditional politicians and multi-millionaires" from using the party-list system as a cheap way to get into Congress.

"This (decision) favored the marginalized Filipinos who will now have more opportunities to win representation in Congress. If MAD was truly for the marginalized, it should be happy with this decision rather than attacking the Supreme Court," he said.

Comelec ruling on party-list praised

LOS BAÑOS, Laguna—Two militant group leaders have expressed satisfaction with the Commission on Elections ruling disqualifying winning party-list groups "not truly representative of marginalized sectors of society.

Eden Marcellana, secretary general of Karapatan-Southern Tagalog, told the INQUIRER the Comelec was definitely correct in disqualifying party-list groups which represent "the rich and powerful" in society.

She also urged the poll body not to delay its overdue proclamation of the winning groups which passed the "evidentiary hearing," including Bayan Muna, so they could start their work in Congress.

Party-list groups like Mamamayan Ayaw sa Droga (MAD) and some big political parties were disqualified even if they won in the last elections after the Comelec ruled they did not truly represent marginalized societal groups.

Bani Cambronero of Bayan Muna-Southern Tagalog backed Marce-llana's call for the immediate proclamation of the legitimate party-list winners.

He said he was disappointed the Comelec was not able to proclaim the party-list winners in time for the opening of the 12th Congress on July 23.

The militant leader urged the Supreme Court to allow the poll body to proclaim the party-list winners.

But, he warned, "Being in Congress does not mean the militant members of Bayan Muna will stop taking to the streets to ventilate their grievances. Rather, we would have more cause to protest if the cries of the poor are not heard by those in authority," Cambro-nero said.

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Gloria to thank Mahathir in KL

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo is to personally thank Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad for helping broker peace talks with the secessionist Moro Islamic Liberation Front, Malacañang said.

The President will be making her first foreign trip to Malaysia next month, the Palace said in a statement without giving specific dates. But her aides earlier said the visit would take place from Aug. 7 to 8.

Topping discussions between the two leaders will be Ms Macapagal's economic agenda, improving bilateral ties and the ongoing peace talks with the MILF.

The MILF has been waging a 23-year rebellion to establish an independent Islamic state in the south. It has signed a ceasefire pact with the government and a new round of peace negotiations were begun last week hosted by Kuala Lumpur.

In an interview with TV3 Television Malaysia yesterday, the President said the economy and the peace process in Mindanao would be the main subjects of their discussion when she meets with Mahathir in Kuala Lumpur.

The President said she also looked forward to strengthening border cooperation mechanisms, such as information exchange, and in "creating an environment of trust between the Philippines and Malaysia to reduce potential irritants."

Another topic high on the agenda of discussion concerns the revitalization of the Brunei-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines-East Asean Growth Area (Bimp-Eaga).

Both leaders are also expected to discuss strengthening of joint border patrols to prevent Filipino kidnappers from raiding beach resorts off Sabah. *AFP*

Gov't-MILF communique up

KUALA LUMPUR—Philippine government negotiators and separatist Islamic rebels who are engaged in a peace negotiation in Malaysia are expected to issue a communiqué on security arrangements, a senior official said yesterday.

Maulana Alonto, media officer with the Moro Islamic Liberation front (MILF), told AFP that a technical panel from the MILF and the Philippine government were ironing out the mechanism to stop hostilities in Mindanao.

"We are now studying the counter proposals about security to end the hostilities. Each group has submitted their new proposals.

"Hopefully, we can resolve the differences today (Sunday). I'm crossing my fingers. It looks positive," Maulana told AFP. He declined to elaborate.

Maulana said each team had submitted counter proposals related to the ground rules to stop hostilities between the rebels and the Philippine armed forces.

The MILF has been waging a 23-year rebellion to establish an independent Islamic state in the south. It has signed a ceasefire pact with Manila and a new round of peace negotiations hosted by Malaysia.

The two teams began peace talks on July 24 at a beachfront hotel in Port Dickson town, south of Kuala Lumpur. They are due to meet until Aug. 3. *AFP*

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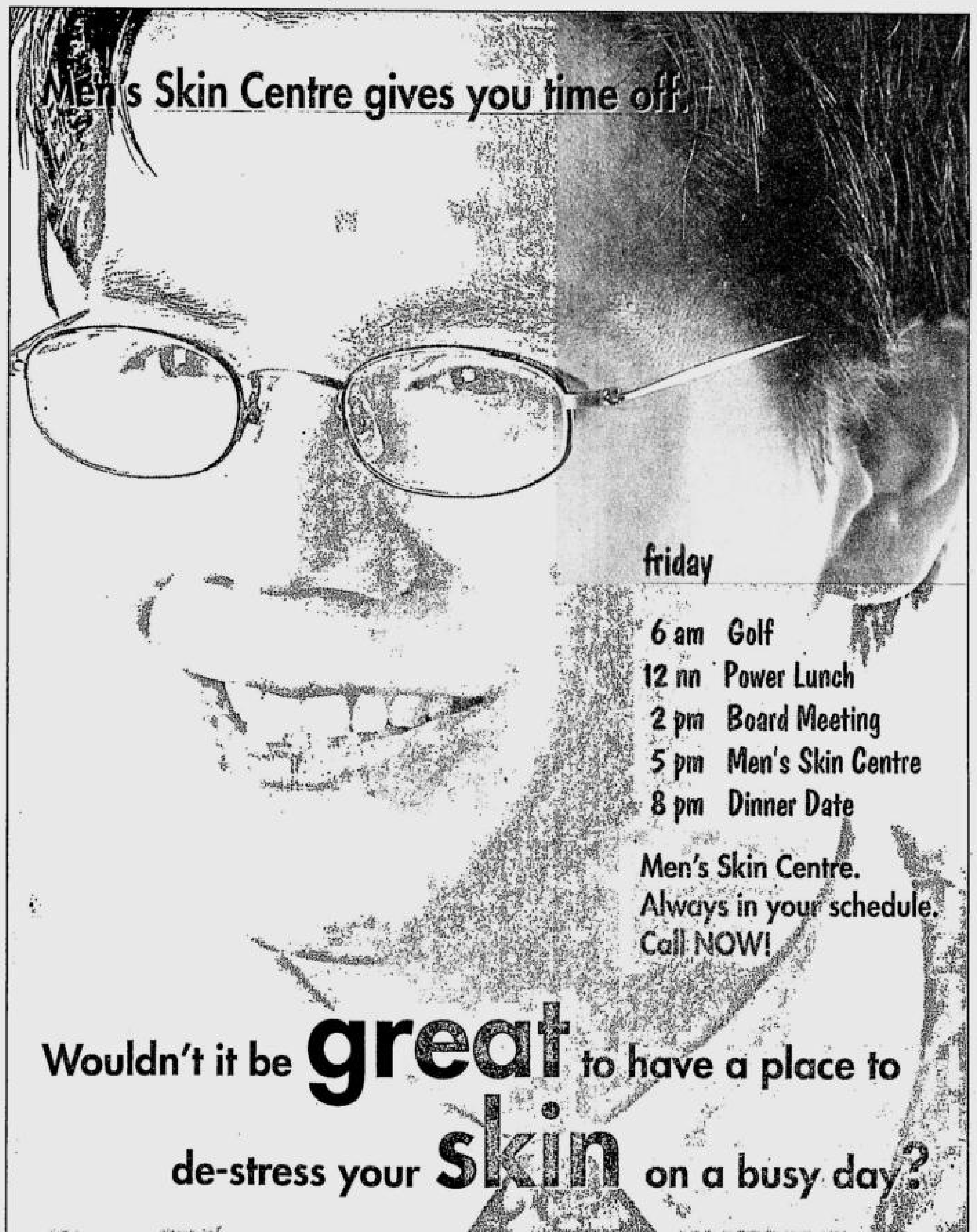
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Judges told: Be sensitive to Green cases

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—Supreme Court Justice Reynato Puno urged trial court judges to pay as much attention to environmental cases as other more conventional cases brought before them.

Puno, who was keynote speaker at a four-day seminar here on environmental law for judges, said the problem of environmental protection merits more than just passing interest.

"We have an indispensable role to play in promoting an environment that is safe and healthy," he said.

He called judges the new guardians of the country's environment, and exhorted them not to stop at traditional methods and instead find creative ways to resolve environmental disputes.

He cited an Asian Development Bank report on the Asian environment which ranked Manila 13th in a list of the world's 15 dirtiest cities, where smoke levels are five times higher than in Latin America.

"Pollution and environmental destruction are pervasive. Political will is also lacking and environmental programs are given a limited budget," Puno said.

The SC justice said that despite the presence of environmental laws, Filipinos' environmental consciousness is still far from satisfactory.

Puno said the country needed a strong pro-environment policy to prevent further environmental destruction.

"This is just half of the war. The other half is the enforcement of these laws, which is a more difficult process," he said.

In environmental cases, there is a collision of conflicting interests and the judiciary will have to take center stage in resolving these confrontations, he said.

"The courts are the final arbiter of clashes between rights and duties," said Puno.

Judges need a commanding knowledge of the emerging body of environmental laws, Puno said, adding that judges are not mere passive referees.

"The god of law cannot prevail over the god of nature," he said.

Bukidnon Rep. Juan Romeo Nereus Acosta, principal author of the Clean Air Act, said judges can either be prophets of doom or purveyors of hope.

"The last thing we need in this country is a desperate government, desperate judiciary and desperate people," he said.

Acosta expressed some frustration over the slow implementation of the Clean Air Act.

"Since the law was enacted last year, the government has not given any budget for it and it is unlikely to give (it a budget) this year because of the country's economic problems," Acosta said.

The seminar was organized by the Tanggol Kalikasan, a public interest environmental office, and the Philippine Judicial Academy, with support from various foreign aid agencies. *Jofelle Tesorio, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

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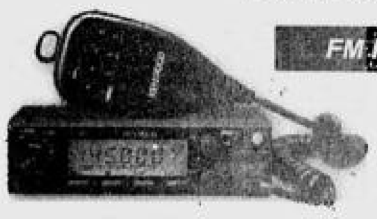

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CHR exec in hot water for sexual harassment

By Delfin Mallari Jr.
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

SAN PABLO CITY—The legal office of the Commission on Human Rights in Southern Tagalog has found a *prima facie* case of sexual harassment against the commission's top official in the region.

Lawyer Ferdinand Quintos, the CHR regional director based in this city, was accused by a female subordinate, Barbara Ramos (not her real name), of "sexual harassment, disgraceful and immoral conduct and grave misconduct."

The CHR has not suspended Quintos and directed him instead to submit evidence.

In her complaint filed on June 11 before the office of CHR chair Aurora Navarette-Recina, Ramos recounted how Quintos, taking advantage of his official position, allegedly harassed her sexually on several occasions.

The complainant, who has been working for the past 10 years with the CHR, said the incidents started after she sought Quintos' legal advice when she discovered that her husband had faked their marriage.

However, Quintos soon allegedly started making unwelcome sexual advances, which became bolder each day, she said.

In one instance, she said, Quintos allegedly handed her a piece of rolled tissue with fresh semen.

Ramos said she confronted Quintos and demanded why he was subjecting her to such vulgarities.

Quintos insisted that they had a relationship, Ramos said.

"He has been exploiting and taking advantage of my being his subordinate and a single parent," said Ramos whose husband left her several years ago. She lives with her two young daughters.

The incident happened on Oct. 2, 2000 and Ramos said she began thinking that afternoon about filing a complaint.

One of her officemates retrieved the piece of tissue with the semen from the wastebasket and brought it to the National Bureau of Investigation for examination, she said.

The NBI forensic chemistry division reported that the paper had been found positive for "seminal stains."

Asked why it took her a long time to file a complaint, Ramos said she was gripped with fear as Quintos was constantly threatening her with "very damaging consequences" should she file charges.

Ramos said Quintos threatened to charge her with perjury, for allegedly falsely representing herself as a married woman in her official records.

"But it was an honest mistake. And when I was trying to correct my civil status, he kept on harassing me," she said.

The complainant also alleged that Quintos had, through various actions, given their officemates the impression that the two of them had a relationship.

"He even enlarged through a computer one of my pictures taken during one of my assignments and displayed it in his office beside his photo," she said.

Ramos said Quintos, who is married but lives away from his family, had been doggedly courting her and that she had turned him down several times.

She said that several times, after she had rejected his suit, Quintos would scold her in public, causing her great pain and humiliation.

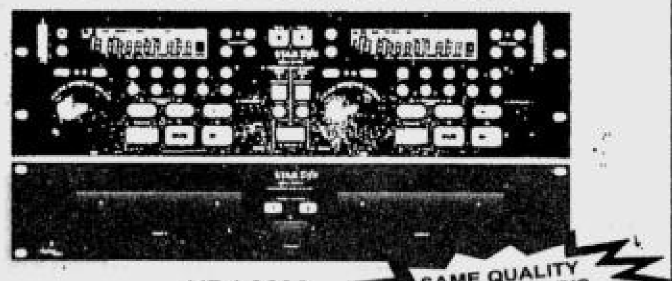
She said the CHR official would call on her at home very late at night, which terrified her family as he would be drunk sometimes.

In his counter-affidavit, Quintos sought to destroy the credibility of Ramos, saying she allegedly committed 19 instances of grave dishonesty in her affidavit of complaint.

He claimed that there were no witnesses to any alleged act of "molestation."

He has filed multiple charges of "grave dishonesty and grave misconduct" against the complainant.

Ramos, who has been reassigned to the CHR's central office, said she was heartened by the new administrative rules on dealing with sexual harassment in government offices announced recently by President Macapagal-Arroyo.



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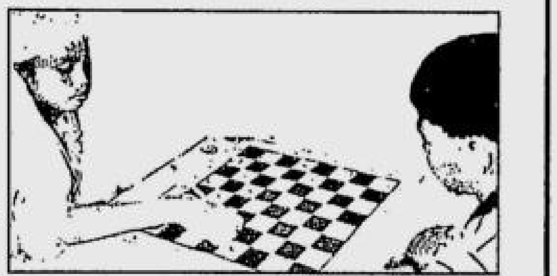

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Abus give military the slip anew

MALUSO, Basilan—Abu Sayyaf kidnappers have slipped through a military cordon covering the central jungles of Basilan Island, an intelligence source told the Agence France Press yesterday.

The official, who declined to be named, said the Abu Sayyaf gang had now reached the town of Sumisip on the southern coast along with some of the 21 US and American hostages they have been holding for more than two months.

The source said witnesses in the area saw Abu Sayyaf leader Abu Sabaya boarding a jeep with American missionary couple Martin and Gracia Burnham, who looked weak and haggard.

"They are both thin and the man has grown a beard," one villager said.

Some of the Filipino hostages were also spotted in the area.

Abu Sabaya was reportedly backed by some 80 armed supporters, who positioned themselves along a river apparently to ambush troops who might close in Sabaya's group.

The rebels were also armed with several anti-tank rockets, and at one time stopped at a riverside village to buy food and fuel, the intelligence source said.

The Abu Sayyaf abducted three Americans and 17 Filipinos from a western Philippine beach resort in May, whom they later took to Basilan. They later took more hostages as they fled a government assault.

The rebels have released several of the hostages allegedly after ransom payments, but have murdered four others. They also claim to have beheaded a third American, Californian Guillermo Sobero, but whose body has not been recovered.

President Macapagal-Arroyo on Saturday again vowed to crush the rebels "to fix this problem once and for all."

She had given the military powers to detain suspected rebels and their supporters in a massive crackdown that swept through Basilan, the nearby Jolo Island and Zamboanga City.

The military has arrested over 80 rebels and supporters, but have been accused of torturing suspects by human rights groups.

Reacting to the criticism, Arroyo said: "This is war and if we wish to end the Abu Sayyaf problem, then we really have to act."

AFP

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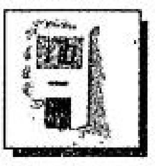

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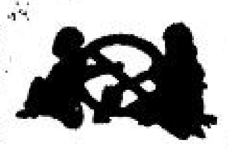

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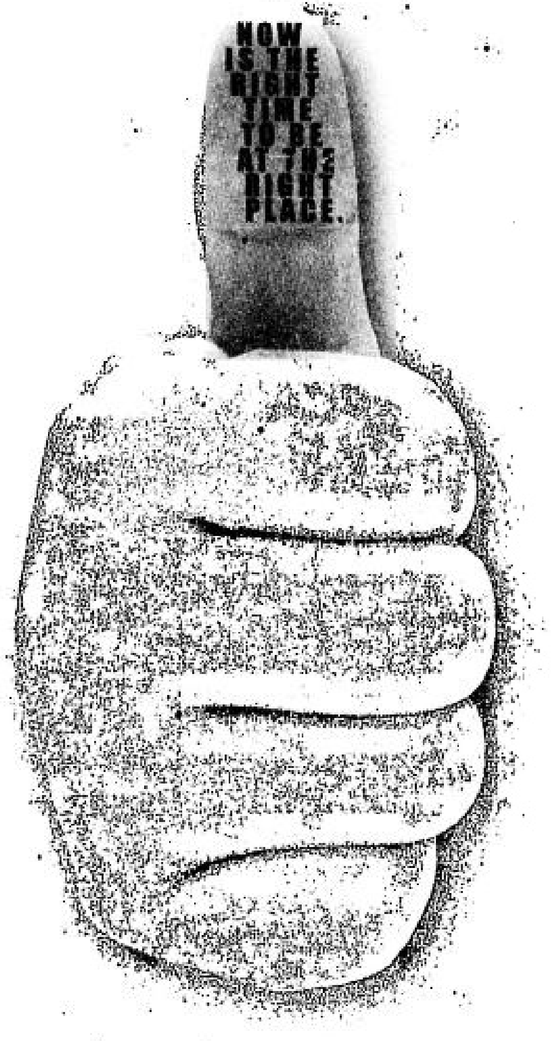

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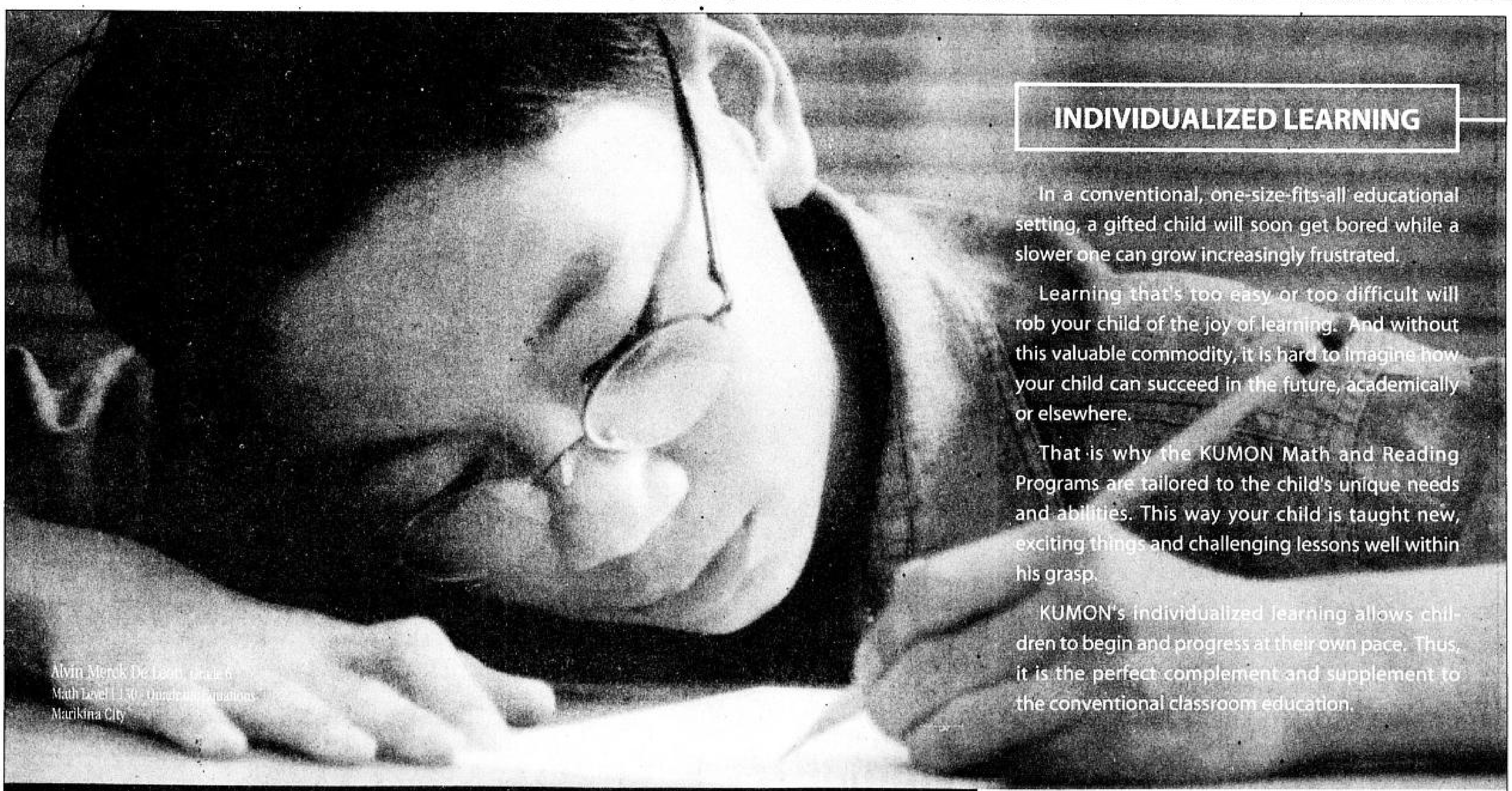

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THERE is danger from afar as a farmer hauls freshly cut bamboo in Daraga, Albay. VAL HANDUMON

Mayon girding for another big blast

(From page A1)

MAYON Volcano is monitored by the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology from a nearby station. VAL HANDUMON

The agency identified as "emerging concerns" the supply of potable water, containers, purifying tablets and medicines.

The NDCC noted "insufficient" calamity funds for local government units and food for the evacuees.

Disease surveillance is ongoing at 31 evacuation sites.

Mt. Mayon Commission

In Manila, Sen. Blas Ople has filed a bill seeking the creation of a Mt. Mayon Relief and Rehabilitation Commission with an initial fund of P15 billion.

Ople said the agency would be patterned after the Mt. Pinatubo Rehabilitation Commission in Central Luzon, which was established in 1992. Congress provided a budget of P30 billion to the commission.

"Our brothers in Bicol are no less entitled to prompt congressional support," Ople said. "There is a positive side to natural disasters. They afford us the opportunity to strengthen the bonds of national solidarity by allocating national resources as aid to victims," he said.

Veronica Madulid, chief of the Albay Provincial Health Office, yesterday denied reports that thousands of evacuees in the province had fallen ill.

"There is absolutely no truth to reports coming from Manila that more than 6,000 evacuees are now afflicted with serious diseases," she said.

Madulid said the latest health and sanitation report she had sent to the Provincial Disaster Coordinating Council recorded 535 cases of minor complaints from the evacuation centers.

She said these were mostly cases of coughing and minor skin irritations probably caused by volcanic ash. The other ailments were fever and flu.

Most of the cases were reported from Guinobatan, Camalig and Malilipot towns. Some came from the cities of Tabaco and Legazpi.

Madulid said the cases had been attended to.

A news report yesterday quoted a report of the Health Emergency Management Office to the NDCC that more than 6,000 evacuees in the towns of Malilipot, Guinobatan and Camalig and in Tabaco City had fallen ill.

"We could not have been the source of such exaggerated health report reaching Manila," Madulid said.

Adequate medical supply

She gave assurance that enough medicines and medical and paramedical personnel, including volunteers, were available to address any medical emergency.

To help avoid an outbreak of diseases, the Provincial Social Welfare and Development Office (PSWDO) has implemented measures to decongest overcrowding in 31 evacuation centers.

Yolanda Guanzon, PSWDO head, told the INQUIRER that more rooms would be made available to evacuees.

Guanzon said they would limit the number of people in every room to 30.

The Department of Health had earlier recommended that at most 10 families (with an average of five members each) would occupy a room.

But initial reports showed that up to 15 families were squeezed like sardines inside most of the rooms.

Guanzon disclosed that the PDCC had built three-seat permanent concrete toilets in most of the 31 evacuation centers in place of temporary ditches dug 6 feet into the ground.

She said a water filtration system made available by the DOH was being brought to areas where water was scarce.

The device can purify water at a rate of 10 cubic meters per hour.

The DOH regional office has rejected the use of fogging devices to combat the spread of mosquitoes and other disease-carrying insects.

Health regional director Gerardo Bayogo instead ordered a regular cleanup operation to destroy the breeding sites of mosquitoes. *With reports from Carlito Pablo and AFP*

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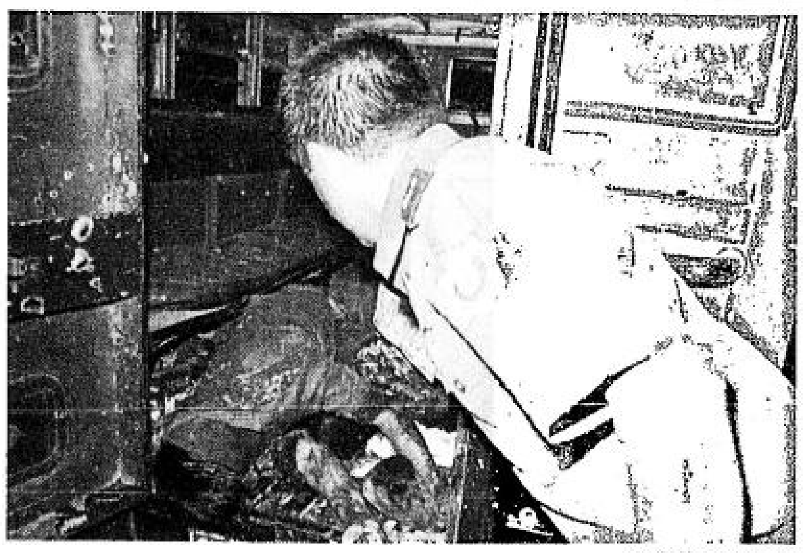

RANDY HORMILLOSA

A POLICEMAN inspects the Tamaraw vehicle where nine alleged members of the Martilyo Gang were killed near Anda Circle in Manila on July 21. Police said it was a shootout but other accounts point to a rubout.

Witness fears for life after TV interview

By Christian Esguerra

THE PRIMARY witness in the killing of nine suspected Martilyo Gang members in Manila last week has gone into hiding, fearing for his life in the hands of police.

The witness, whose name is being withheld by the INQUIRER, has not reported for work since an interview he gave on GMA-7's "Emergency" television show last Friday, his brother said yesterday.

"*Natatakot siya para sa pamilya niya. Alam niyang wala siyang laban sa mga pulis* (He's afraid for his family. He knows he doesn't stand a chance against the police)," the brother told the INQUIRER yesterday.

The witness worked near Anda Circle on Bonifacio Drive in Intramuros where Philippine National Police Intelligence Group operatives stopped and surrounded the vehicle of the suspects on July 21.

In an interview with the INQUIRER the day after the incident, the witness said the policemen shot at the suspects with "impunity" and "did not give them a chance."

"*Patay na pero pinagbabaril pa. Siniguro talagang patay* (The suspects were already dead but they were still being shot at. They (police) made sure they were dead)," he said.

TV appearance

The witness said he saw the entire incident, which lasted about five minutes. He gave a similar account to GMA's Emergency, which aired the interview showing his face, according to his brother.

Since then, the witness has gone into hiding with his family, fearing police might go after him to "silence" him, the brother said.

"I don't know when he'll show up. He's in a very difficult situation. His job, his safety and family are at stake," the brother said in Filipino.

Police have denied summarily executing the suspects. They said they fired back after one of the suspects fired at them first.

They said they had been tailing the suspects for some time after an informant told them they were planning to rob a moneychanger in Malate, Manila.

They said that when the suspects sensed they were being followed, they stopped their vehicle, a red Toyota FX, and one of them fired a shot at the lawmen.

It was then, police said, that they opened fire on the suspects.

Different story

The witness told the INQUIRER and GMA a different story, however.

He said the police operatives opened fire on the suspects' vehicle immediately after forcing it to a stop on Bonifacio Drive in front of the Department of Public Works and Highways building.

He said the police closed in to about three meters from the van, all the while peppering it with bullets.

Eight of the suspects died on the spot while the ninth died on the way to the hospital.

The suspect admitted hearing a lone shot before the fusillade from the police. He could not tell, however, who had fired the shot or where it had come from.

He recalled seeing the suspects' bodies, most with their guns still tucked in the waist.

Violent gang

Five of the suspects were identified as Giovani Jalique, Nhold Usop, Ricky Ismail, Abdul Theng and Casanoding Naga. They were believed to be Muslims.

Seized from them were two .45-cal. and one .38-cal. pistols and an MK2 fragmentation grenade.

Police said the suspects were members of the Martilyo Gang believed to be behind the spate of jewelry store robberies in Metro Manila.

Gang members use hammers (*martilyo*) to break into jewelry display cases to scoop up the gems.

They are also known to hurl grenades behind them to discourage any pursuit. This type of robbery thus causes lots of injuries and even death.

When things got too hot for the gang, they were known to switch to robbing banks.

They were reportedly on their way to rob a moneychanger at the Trader's Hotel in Malate when they were stopped by the police.

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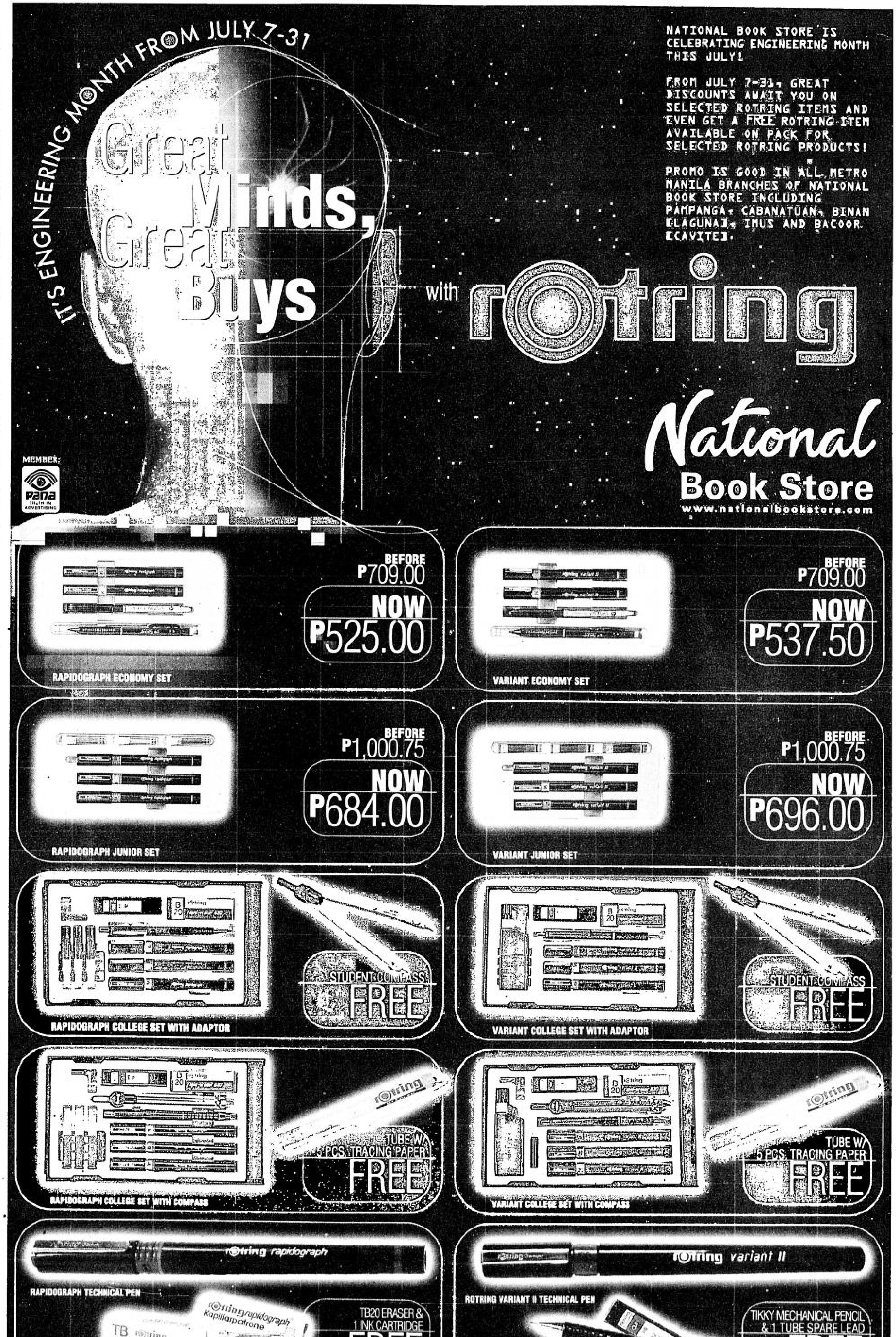

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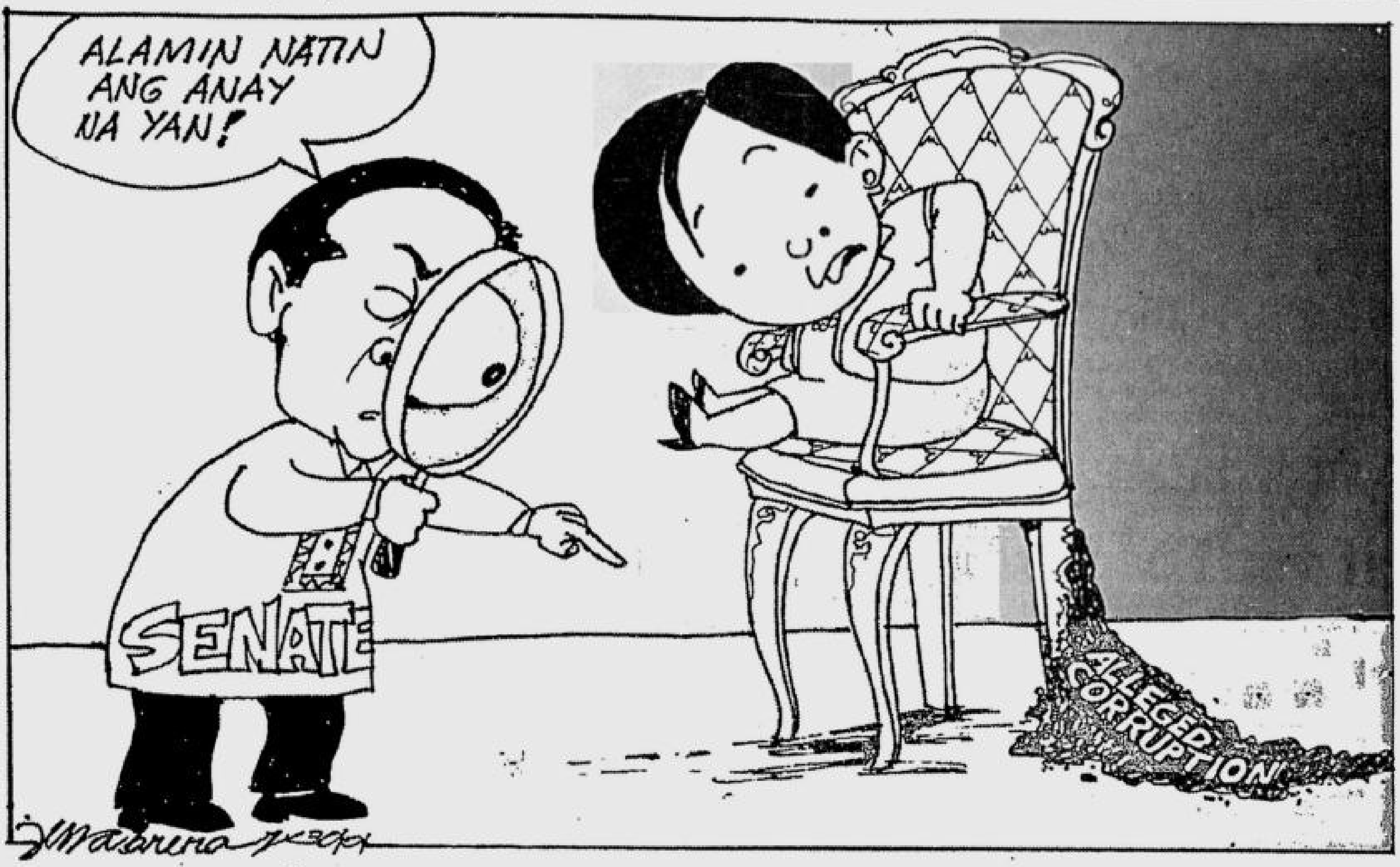

Sour-grape politics

EDITORIAL

POLITICAL hell hath no fury like a former Senate president scorned. Or shabbily treated, as Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. intimated he had been, to journalists at a forum and to the listening public over radio last Saturday.

In response to President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's statement that the opposition had no alternatives to counter the programs she outlined in her first State of the Nation Address, the new Senate minority floor leader said they did, and proceeded to give an example.

"In gambling, Ms President, we learned that illegal gambling—*jueteng*—is strong in Pampanga," he said on his radio program. "We should be able to put an end to that. It is your home province. We should show that we are sincere in these things."

To which the proper response, paraphrasing the immortal question from the Watergate hearings, ought to be: What did he learn, and when did he learn it?

That *jueteng* continues to thrive in Pampanga hardly qualifies as news. But apparently, when Pimentel was Senate president, he had not learned about it. When he kept himself in the race for Vice President-appointee, he was still in the dark about it. When he was campaigning for a 13-0 People Power Coalition vote, he still did not know about it. When he was directing the passage of the controversial power reform bill, he remained ignorant of it. Indeed, it seems that, even up to the crucial hours of the morning of July 23, just before the Senate of the 12th Congress voted for its new president, he had not even heard about it. But by the afternoon, after he lost the Senate vote, Pimentel apparently learned about it, and many more things too.

Losing a vote must be what all losers say it is: an educational experience.

No matter how much he denies it, the public knows that Pimentel's sudden hard-line opposition stance was determined by his loss in the Senate. If he had retained his presidency of the upper chamber, we can be certain that he would have remained oblivious of the alleged state of illegal gambling in Pampanga.

But, astoundingly, he remains triumphantly in denial. "There is no bitterness whatsoever in my heart," he said the other day. But in the same forum, he also said: "The coalition did not find me a worthy member of the PPC despite me, a Senate president, having held the microphone for the President during her inauguration...Yet when the time came, they did not even consider me for possible retention."

Pimentel used to be a politician of principle, someone who had the moral authority to steer the country's most controversial blue ribbon hearings and then the Senate itself during the country's first impeachment trial. Today, however, he is apparently willing to let personal hurt dictate his politics, and the country be damned.

Of course, he will not say so himself. In fact, for a born-again oppositionist, Pimentel retains the fair-minded habits of a human rights lawyer. "The minority in the Senate will be a responsible opposition group," he said. "We will not object just for the sake of objection," he added.

In raising the tempting possibility of asking the President to testify on the growing Philippine Communications Clearinghouse Inc. scandal, he added a lawyerly qualification. "I don't want to start unless we have a stronger basis for the investigation," he said. (In other words, what he has so far is good only for a sound bite or two.)

But these nuances have been cancelled out by his words in black and white.

He has certainly learned enough to criticize just for the sake of criticism. His gratuitous and oft-repeated comment on the President's Sona, that it reminded him of a "promising" Joe de Venecia on the campaign trail, sounded good on TV, but did absolutely nothing for the nation. At a time when the country needed help in lifting itself out of a sense of drift and distress, the just-replaced Senate president focused his attention on the President's style of presentation.

We paraphrase Brown's Law: Never oppose on style when you can oppose on substance. It is time to remind Pimentel of his roots in principled opposition.

Hospital director wants to destroy jobs of gardeners

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

"WE will create jobs, not destroy them."

That was one of the promises of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo in her State of the Nation Address. But apparently her subordinates don't believe her.

The director of the Lung Center of the Philippines (LCP) wants to deprive entrepreneurs of their means of livelihood, for what reason he does not want to say. These entrepreneurs are small businessmen growing and selling orchids, ornamentals and tree seedlings on a piece of property that the LCP is renting out to them. This is located beside the hospital—now under reconstruction after it was burned some time ago—on the Quezon Memorial Circle in Quezon City. The stores pay about P200,000 a month in rent to the LCP. They have been there for about 10 years already.

In 1998, the 3,000-square-meter area was a cogon-choked wasteland where drug addicts and prostitutes did their thing, hidden from the view of passing motorists. An entrepreneur leased the property from the LCP, cleared and developed it, and sub-leased small plots to gardeners, who invested a lot of money to construct their stores and gardens.

During the Estrada administration, however, the new hospital director cancelled the original lease agreement and collected directly from the tenants. Then last week, the tenants were given notices to vacate the premises. They were given an Aug. 1 deadline. No reason was given why they were being driven away.

The tenants have asked a number of times for a meeting with the hospital management but they were ignored. Last week, one of the gates leading to the compound was padlocked by hospital security guards.

Why are they being ejected? Hospital management refuses to say. One rumor says a mini-golf course was to be put up there. Another says it would be still another shopping mall. Still another rumor says a high-rise condominium would rise there. And another says an outpatient clinic of the hospital would be put up there. The present stores and offices would be converted into doctors' clinics. But these are all rumors and the LCP management refuses to dispel them by revealing the real reason why the tenants are being ejected. Which gives rise to suspicions that the management is keeping it secret because it would be embarrassing if its motive were exposed.

If they are being replaced by an outpatient department, the tenants are willing to leave because that would be for the good of the public. The trouble is the hospital does not want to reimburse them for the expenses they incurred in constructing their stores and developing their gardens. Unlike in shopping malls, the hospital did not spend a single centavo in their construction; the tenants spent bundles of money for them. One invested almost P3 million on his rented property. In all fairness, since the hospital would take over the stores, the tenants should at least get some of their investments back. They would need fresh capital to start all over again. And even squatters are paid a "disturbance fee" when they are ejected. And these are not squatters but legitimate tenants.

But if it is for an outpatient clinic, why is the hospital giving priority to depriving them of jobs when there is a very big empty space right beside the hospital, owned by it, where the outpatient clinic can be constructed? And why embark on a new construction when the reconstruction of the burned hospital is not even halfway finished yet? Is the outpatient rumor just a ploy to eject the tenants? Is there an influential land developer whose greedy eyes are focused on the property? Is there somebody very influential with the director who wants to take over the property?

Remember the uproar when it was discovered that the Ayala Corp. planned to construct condominiums and a shopping mall on the empty property of the Government Service Insurance System also on the Quezon City Circle? Such a development would make traffic congestion in the Circle, already very bad at present, a terrible nightmare. Besides, that is not the place for condominiums and a mall. That is a place reserved for government offices. So any plan to put up condominiums, a mall or a mini-golf course on the rented garden center should be nipped in the bud now.

"All we want is transparency and due process," said the garden tenants. Why is the hospital management so shy and embarrassed to meet with them? Because the hospital director refuses to talk with them, the tenants have sent a letter to Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit to find out what is going on. If Dayrit is also embarrassed to talk to them, the tenants plan to go up to President Macapagal.

Ms President, these people already have jobs. You don't have to create any for them. You don't have to spend anything for them. But why does your hospital administrator want to destroy their jobs? He is not helping to create new jobs, so why is he destroying already existing ones?

* * *

There is an insistent public demand for more jokes here. So I am resuming them, depending on available jokes (preferably polite ones) I get from the e-mail, from text messages, or heard at coffee shops. They will no longer be Erap jokes or Gloria jokes but any joke that is not corny and not *bastos*. Here is the first one, hopefully the last of the Erap jokes:

Reporter: The punishment for plunder is lethal injection. ***Hindi ba kayo natatakot?***

Erap: ***Kung sa*** **"big"** ***hindi ako natatakot, sa*** **"little"** ***pa?***

* * *

Comments are welcome at asiseeit@pacific.net.ph

Logic 101

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

HERNANDO Perez says the notion that Mike Arroyo could possibly have accepted a bribe to try to change his wife's mind over her veto of a telecommunications bill is illogical. Anyone who tried to bribe the President to do so would have been wasting his time because the President cannot rescind her own veto. "There can be a veto override, but there can be no reconsideration."

Lest Perez feel smug about his feat of reasoning, let us hasten to add that he forgets one important thing. Which is that that thoroughly illogical argument was not raised by Arroyo's detractors. It was raised by Arroyo himself. He it was who first said on radio, apparently to defend himself against text messages that said he took a bribe on a bill, that a presidential secretary **had** accepted a bribe to try to change his wife's mind. That must suggest that either he himself did not know the law that a President cannot rescind her own veto or he believed there were no laws in this country that could stand up to resolute massaging.

If the first, then that might explain why he himself might have thought he could get the President to do it. If the second, well, he would have been right: few laws in this country are impervious to tinkering. Miriam Defensor-Santiago, champion of the Constitution, as she put it in her campaign ad, was not beyond deluding herself and the country into thinking an agreement was the same thing as a treaty during the VFA debate. Perez himself has suggested the legal loophole there: a veto can be overridden, even if it cannot be reconsidered. Which means the persuading would have been done in Congress, possibly with help from Malacañang.

In any case, who says greedy people are logical? Power has been known to addle the brain, and absolute power to addle it absolutely. First Gentlemen, like First Ladies, have been known in the end to remember only that they are supposed to be first, and not gentlemen—or ladies.

* * *

A friend pointed this out to me: President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo missed a terrific opportunity to really unite this country when she delivered her Sona last week. Of course she called on the politicians to declare a truce on politicking or bickering for at least a year, and throw their shoulders behind government's program to bring this country back on its feet. That was a great pitch, challenging the senators and congressmen to think of the nation first before their own petty selves for a change. It was a call that could not have fallen on deaf ears among the public.

But where the President missed the terrific opportunity was in not pushing that argument to its logical end. Which was for her to have said that to show proof that she meant business, that she was serious about everyone—without exception—foregoing personal interests for the sake of the country, she was announcing that she would not run for President again. That was how much she valued the country over personal ambition.

She might have said that, like Cory Aquino, who had even more reason to seek a second term because she was the country's universal choice quite apart from being arguably legally free to run again (she was never voted into public office), she was stepping down. She might have said that three years were enough to do this country a world of good, and that if a sacrifice were needed to push it along, she was willing to make it. She might have said that no one was indispensable, there would be no lack of people to take her place, she would be content to have her place in history as the one person who helped the country rediscover idealism.

She might have gotten instant unity if she had said that. But she did not.

* * *

Who in God's name is Rene Bañez?

He will forever have the distinction of being singled out in nothing less than a President's State of the Nation Address for public commendation. No other person has enjoyed that privilege. Not Jose Diokno, a public official, who toiled mightily to bring back decency in the form of human rights to this country. Not Lorenzo Tañada who spent a lifetime—and what a long lifetime it was!—trying to free this country from bondage. Not Chino Roces, a private individual, who worked quietly with ink in hand and hope in heart to keep the fires of freedom alive. They never had a President extolling their virtues and lauding them as among the things that helped monumentally to improve the state of the nation.

Not even some current public officials who have distinguished themselves since they were appointed to their posts. Not Raul Roco whose efforts to rid one of the country's most corrupt departments of scalawags and plain thieves has met with vigorous nods from the business and NGO communities alike, from rich and poor alike. I agree with Peter Wallace on that. Neither has Dinky Soliman, despite being indefatigable as social welfare secretary, and showing the world it is possible for a public official to take her job seriously.

The one person to get that signal and extraordinary honor is Bañez.

What signal and extraordinary thing has he done? Nothing. He has not had a signal and extraordinary stint at the BIR. He has not even had a signal and extraordinary life. Why the President would say with absolute certainty not just in public but in her first and most important policy speech that he is the man we might expect to pluck out public service from the doldrums, only she can say. Or her speechwriters. It's an obvious PR job—it pays to be *malakas* with the speechwriters—that found its way into nothing less than Ms Macapagal's Sona.

You wonder if the rest of the speech isn't just PR too. Logically.

* * *

"It's the economy, stupid," the opposition says. Or words to that effect. The economy is in horrible shape. That is the true state of the nation.

Well, who in God's name made it so? I can agree that Ms Macapagal hasn't done much to make things better. But she has only been half a year behind the wheel, they were two and a half years there. Who made Lucio Tan et al. the lords of humankind, bending all the country's laws for them? Who put gangsters in charge of government so that we looked at one point like an underworld state? Who made corruption and abuse and plain rottenness the hallmarks of rule they drove not just investors but Filipinos themselves away from the country?

It ain't the economy, it's you, stupid.

Some people should really take up Logic 101.

Rodrigo's 'Napag-alaman ko' constitutes hearsay

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

I READ with interest, like many other citizens, the statement made by Veronica "Bing" Rodrigo over the radio a week and a half ago, and reprinted in the INQUIRER's front page yesterday, where she answered the allegation aired by First Gentleman Mike Arroyo. The latter had said earlier that an unnamed Palace secretary, who had resigned, may have been the one who profited from the telecommunications franchises, not himself, contrary to text messages all around. Rodrigo said she felt alluded to, as she was the only secretary to resign, and she hit back.

But what I found interesting was that Rodrigo twice used the phrase *"napag-alaman ko"* in accusing Arroyo and three other unnamed people close to Arroyo, of having received a big sum of money. Said she: "*...Napag-alaman ko na ang mga taong kasangkot sa* deal *na ito ay sina* Ginoong Mike Arroyo, *at tatlo pa. Dalawa rito ay nagtatrabaho sa Palasyo, at isa ay* business partner *ni* Ginoong Arroyo. *Napag-alaman ko rin na malaking halaga ng pera ang tinaggap nila...*"

* * *

To me, the clue in Rodrigo's well-crafted statement are the words "*napag-alaman ko*." As any Tagalista knows—Rodrigo is from Bulacan, like her respected father, Sen. Soc Rodrigo—the phrase "*napag-alaman ko*" translates to "I got information" or "I heard." This is not the same as saying "*alam ko*," which translates to "I know for a fact." In other words, Rodrigo never said she knows for sure or has direct knowledge that Arroyo got the bribe. There is a world of difference between the two. In the case of "*napag-alaman ko*," therefore, this becomes hearsay. In her statement, in fact, she was obviously more emphatic and categorical in stressing her innocence of any wrongdoing.

It is interesting to find out what Rodrigo is going to tell the Senate blue ribbon committee or the Ombudsman, to which President Macapagal has endorsed her husband's case for investigation. But for now, based on her one and only statement, Rodrigo's story is hearsay.

* * *

I've talked to a lot of people about the Mike Arroyo case. Some say they don't believe it for one good reason: why should Arroyo get bribe money from two known Erap associates, Jaime Dichaves and Pacifico Marcelo? In Arroyo's case, argue the observers, there are many ways to raise money, if that's what he's after; why should he choose Dichaves who was such a close crony of Erap that he was willing to claim the Jose Velarde account just to get Erap off the hook? Surely Arroyo would realize that Dichaves could be laying a trap for him. The observers note that even then Speaker and now Quezon City Mayor Sonny Belmonte was wary of the franchise grant as he told Presidential Legislative Liaison Office chief Gabby Claudio to ignore his intercession note which got to the latter.

* * *

Stacked up against the hearsay information offered by Rodrigo that Arroyo allegedly received the bribe are several facts. One is Rodrigo's admission that she accompanied Malu Nuñez, a supposed consultant of the Department of Transportation and Communications, to see Claudio, to follow up on the status of the franchise bills. It would be good to find out who is Nuñez's principal; she has since flown to the United States. Then there are the admissions of Transportation Secretary Panteleon Alvarez, PLLO's Claudio and President Macapagal herself, that Mike Arroyo never talked to them about the franchises; conversely, Marcelo's company denied any bribe was ever made. There's also the fact that the two franchise bills were vetoed by President Macapagal late last April. If Mike really got a bribe to have those bills approved, he certainly loused it up.

By the way, a media colleague has proposed that perhaps Sen. Tito Sotto, who chaired the franchise committee in the last Congress that sponsored those franchise bills, ought to explain who are the people behind those corporations. Were they his friends?

* * *

Even though Rodrigo has claimed that she had only heard (*"napag-alaman"*) of Arroyo's involvement, the opposition in the Senate, led by Minority Leader Nene Pimentel, as well as some media, has more than insinuated that Arroyo is guilty. "*Alam na ni Presidente kung sinu-sino ang kasama diyan,*" says Pimentel, adding that "*mag-fifill-in* the blanks *na lang kami.*" Sen. Blas Ople, who never uttered a word in the Senate impeachment trial of Erap, except to say "No" to the opening of the second envelop, has been exercising his vocal cords to the hilt with threats about unleashing the "guns of August." The opposition gloated on radio that Ms Macapagal's government won't last the year.

* * *

A reader noted that by contrast, a lot of direct testimony has been made against recently elected Sen. Panfilo Lacson, including some awfully strong statements by our courageous colleague Mon Tulfo; but not a squeak has been heard from the opposition senators about it. Moreover, those senators, who were then with Erap four-square—Pimentel, Angara, Ople, Sotto—never uttered a word in the face of Erap's alleged plunder of billions which they knew about. Pimentel seems to have become quite bitter after he failed to get Ms Macapagal's backing to be retained as Senate president.

Ms Macapagal has asked the Ombudsman to investigate her husband, while the opposition wants the blue ribbon committee to go ahead with it. Obviously the opposition will milk the case dry, in the hope that Rodrigo would become Ms Macapagal's Chavit Singson. Let's have the investigation and finish it fast; if Mike Arroyo is guilty of receiving a bribe, let him hang. It's worse that the nation's attention is being diverted from the very real and far more serious problems such as our stagnating economy.

* * *

Over Cecile Alvarez's dzRH anti-poverty program which I join every Sunday evening, National Anti-Poverty Commission convenor Ging Quintos-Deles spoke about the government's program to generate jobs immediately, to crank up the economy and alleviate poverty. There's the emergency employment program for the national capital region, with the Department of Interior and Local Government as lead agency. Under this plan, hundreds of out of school youths, chosen from the poorest families in the metropolis, are being hired twice a week to do various jobs, from cleaning *esteros* and islands to fixing schoolhouses. Deles pointed out that a counterpart program for the rural countryside is the implementation of the Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Program, passed in the Ramos era but left unfunded in Erap's term. She stressed that P20 billion will be allocated to help, among other things, generate a million jobs in the countryside up to the year 2004.

I told Deles my concerns, doubtless shared by many citizens: that the job-generation will not be confined to just the politicians' followers, and that the huge amounts of money being allocated should not be squandered on ghost projects.

War room

KRIS-CROSSING MINDANAO

Carlos Isagani T. Zarate

WE are now becoming accustomed (again) to one of the current "in" words following President Macapagal's first State of the Nation Address: the "war room." Not only does it bring to mind the Cinemax documentary of the presidential campaign team that propelled Bill Clinton into power, it also evokes images of an action-oriented and surgically precise way of addressing problems.

Apparently, the Macapagal "war room" was in response to Amando Doronila's suggestion for the setting up of an operations center to monitor the progress of the President's promises in her Sona.

Its announcement also came after Congress announced the creation of a special oversight committee to closely monitor if the President's target programs were all talk or not. Not to be outdone, people's organizations and civil society groups led by Bayan Muna also declared the creation of a parallel "people's war room" with the same purpose.

This "war-room" approach is not entirely new; it has always been part of the government's curative measures, metamorphosing from one form to another: task forces, Cabinet clusters, infrastructure centers, steering committees, etc. But after several well-funded "war rooms" repeatedly made and then disbanded by past administrations, sadly, our country still faces the same decades-old problems.

Mindanao itself saw several versions of "war rooms" that have evolved to supposedly address the problems that have spawned conflicts and untold miseries among its inhabitants. With almost the same result: millions, if not billions of pesos in resources poured, yet Mindanao remains "a land of promise."

During the era of migration to Mindanao, the government created the Commission on National Integration supposedly to coordinate development in Mindanao, with emphasis on bringing the Muslim and lumad residents of the island into the center of the national fabric. By the time it was abolished, Mindanao was facing twin rebellions from the guerrillas of the Moro National Liberation Front and the New People's Army.

Later, the government also came up with the Southern Philippines Development Authority, with the same purpose of coordinating the different government-initiated economic development projects, and addressing the causes of rebellion in Mindanao. (Incidentally, the SPDA is now headed by lawyer Randolph Parcasio, former Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao executive secretary and a ranking official of the Nur Misuari-led MNLF.)

The regional autonomous governments created during the Marcos era (following the 1976 Tripoli Agreement between the MNLF and the government) meanwhile succeeded only in pacifying and enriching several local politicians and guerrillas-turned-local-bureaucrats. They also did not improve the lives of the Mindanaoans, particularly those living in areas classified as the poorest in the country.

Right now, aside from the SPDA, there are the Southern Philippines Council for Peace and Development, headed by Misuari, and the Special Zone on Peace and Development. Both bodies, offshoots of the 1996 Peace Agreement between the government and the MNLF, should have served as launching mechanisms for the eventual expansion of the present four-province ARMM. Today, the council is still here, but peace and development in Mindanao are nowhere in sight.

So, what kind of "war-room" will the Macapagal administration create for Mindanao?

Following its assumption in January this year, the administration established INTERACT-Mindanao which is an inter-agency committee for the relief, rehabilitation and development of conflict-affected areas in the region. Its impact has yet to be seen and felt.

In the President's address, she mentioned the revival of Mindanao as the gateway to the East Asean Growth Area, apparently recognizing Mindanao's strategic importance to the country's economic survival. She also reiterated her determination to pursue the government's peace and development agenda for the region, particularly in the current talks with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

Incidentally, the talks between the government and the MILF, which "shifted back" to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, is also geared toward the "relief, rehabilitation and development" of Mindanao, particularly the areas affected by Estrada's total war policy.

Depending on the outcome of the current talks, it is not farfetched that another coordinating body—another "war room"—will again be created to put in place the details of the peace agreement between the government and the MILF.

But will the day come when "war rooms" will be unnecessary and obsolete in Mindanao and the rest of the country?

* * *

"Neither blame nor surrender, but with dignity for all" was how Presidential Assistant Jesus Dureza, head of the government's negotiating panel for talks with the MILF, described the Macapagal administration's thrust in the current talks with the Moro rebels.

It will be the backbone of a principled resolution of the conflict in Mindanao, Dureza recently told a multi-sectoral consultation in Davao City.

More recently, Dureza also mentioned the "one nation, two-systems" model adopted by China in relation to Hong Kong as the possible model for the settlement with the MILF. As a Special Administrative Region of China, Hong Kong maintained its capitalist style for 50 years. Will this model work? Where will the present setup with the MNLF be placed in this model?

Carlos Isagani T. Zarate, a former journalist, is a FLAG lawyer. He is also a former vice president of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines in Davao City.

High-tech becomes the high court

COMMENTARY

Dean Jorge Bocobo

LAWYERS all over the archipelago may have been challenged last week as the Supreme Court published its new "Rules on Electronic Evidence" in the requisite two newspapers of general circulation, including the INQUIRER (7/22/01, Page A4), as part of implementing the Electronic Commerce Act of 2000, Many legal practitioners may have been deterred from reading the rules completely though because, by the tyranny of alphabetical order, the very first item in the Definition of Terms was for "asymmetric or public cryptosystem." This topic is more properly tackled in a graduate math class and definitely unexpected in a Supreme Court en banc resolution.

Cryptosystem, the Supreme Court proceeded to define as, (don't hold your breath) "a system capable of generating a secure key pair, consisting of a private key for creating a digital signature, and a public key for verifying the digital signature." It was actually referring to a widely accepted system of protecting the authenticity and integrity of electronic data and messages using advanced mathematical encryption techniques. But most lawyers and laymen are likely to be flummoxed by such jargon, although it might bring a smile or two, to a small tribe of mathematical specialists called prime number theorists, on whose arcane work and persistent scribbling since ancient times, such wonders as cryptography are based.

The new rules will take effect Aug. 1 and will affect all pending and future cases of litigation involving electronic documents and messages as evidence. This certainly includes the cases against Erap, in which bank records have played such a prominent part. The admissibility and weight of this body of evidence, much of it in electronic form, could decide its outcome in the end.

Many other business and personal interests are also at stake since electronic transactions are a part of many cases under litigation, now and in the future. Lawyers and their clients are scrambling just to understand the basics as laid out in the recent Supreme Court promulgation. It will take them some time to digest such hard lumps as "asymmetric cryptosystems."

The vacuum in law covering electronic transactions has delayed the entry of the Philippines into the highly competitive but lucrative industries and markets that have recently powered economic prosperity in many other countries. The new Rules of Evidence are part of the implementation of the Electronic Commerce Act of 2000 (RA 8792) which seeks to fill that vacuum.

Popularly called the e-commerce law, RA 8792 became a year old this month. This landmark legislation establishes the functional equivalence of electronic documents and transactions to their paper-based counterparts. The legislation was somewhat hastily passed by Congress and signed by Erap into law in the wake of last year's Love Bug virus. Its swift passage last year was necessitated by the embarrassing lack of a basis in law upon which to prosecute the author of the Love Bug. Its surprising virulence and $10 billion in estimated damage heightened worldwide concerns for protecting the integrity of transnational communications and computer networks. The law punishes crimes like computer hacking with jail and penalties. Most importantly, it lays the foundation for commercial transactions to be conducted electronically in a secure and orderly manner.

Erap signed RA 8792 two weeks before Bill Clinton signed the very same US law upon which the Philippine legislation was, shall we say, liberally patterned. How ironic. A case of the plagiarist publishing before the original author. (This is apparently allowed in lawmaking since no harm is done and much good instead.)

So the Philippines can claim, albeit immodestly to have been ahead of the United States in establishing the functional equivalence of electronic documents, signatures and transactions with their paper and ink counterparts in the physical world. Nevertheless, the Supreme Court led by Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. deserves congratulations for promulgating its implementing rules on electronic commerce so speedily, as well as taking steps to modernize its own document handling systems. High-tech, it seems, becomes the high court. Other government bureaucracies may do well to heed its example, since the law envisions all government departments as providing universal online access to the public within two years of the law's enactment.

Perhaps the most significant innovation in both pieces of legislation has to do with the concept of an electronic signature. Of course, we easily take for granted how effective, secure and simple, the agency of the common handwritten signature is, in the conduct of the myriad affairs of modern societies. Signatures are effective as evidence and expression of a person's will because biology makes signatures unique, almost like fingerprints, and difficult to counterfeit. So when you sign something, it is difficult to deny it later (although Filipino politicians do so regularly with straight faces). Taken together, the physical signature and document are mutually bound together and self-authenticating. It's not so easy in the electronic world where the process of preparing human communications for digital transmission enforces a stubborn anonymity and that also breeds scam artists.

It is hoped that the e-commerce law will help to usher in a new period of renewed investment and economic activity in a promising sector where English-speaking and tech-savvy Filipinos stand a chance of competing on the world stage. The new rules break ground into historical and legal frontiers because for the first time since handwriting was invented, judicial notice is being taken of the existence of legally binding "signatures" which are not affixed by the human hand as ink atoms in a unique pattern of curlicues and arabesques on paper, but are specially encoded digital bits of ethereal information. This may strike one as utterly trivial, but it is the foundation for a whole different way of doing business that is already transforming the world.

Missing newspaper jumps and sections

READERS' ADVOCATE

Raul J. Palabrica

YOU push your coffee cup aside and get ready to enjoy the day's copy of the INQUIRER. The headline of a news report on the front page catches your attention.

A few paragraphs later, and just when your curiosity has been whetted, the report is cut short and a page number appears to indicate the page where the rest of it can be read.

You quickly move to that page and check the heads to pick up where you left off. To your surprise, you find there is nothing on that page that has anything to do with the article you want to read.

So what do you do? You leaf through the other pages looking for the continuation. After two or three page turns, you discover that the page where the article is supposed to have "jumped" is on a different page. Sometimes, the continuation is nowhere to be found in the newspaper.

You can only shake your head in dismay. You wonder if the person responsible for the error was sleepy or had other things in mind when he went over the draft pages of the newspaper.

A similar feeling is felt by readers who eagerly look forward to reading their favorite sections, only to find out, after paying for the newspaper, that the object of their patronage is not included in the set they bought or, if they are, the copy lacks some pages.

When they go back to the newspaper vendor to ask for the missing sections, they are told that the INQUIRER either did not deliver the sections concerned or, if it did, were insufficient. The reader can only suffer in silence and make do with the sections of the newspaper given to him.

Although complaints about missing sections or inaccurate jump pages have not reached serious proportions, I felt it was time to get some explanation from the people concerned about these problems.

Proofreading

The responsibility of making sure the correct jump page is indicated at the end of the story rests with the editorial assistants. After the senior editors have cleaned up the drafts of the important news of the day and decided on their positioning on the proper pages, the editorial assistants take over to see to it that these decisions are correctly implemented.

The editorial assistants are supposed to check, double-check and triple-check the arrangement of the articles and the pages where they are continued if they cannot be accommodated in one page.

Although the principal tools used in the performance of this task are the old reliable pair of eyes, the facilities of modern computer technology are available at the editorial room to assist the editorial assistants do their job under deadline pressure.

Human as they are, editorial assistants inevitably commit errors or lapses. Once in a while, the continuation of a story winds up on a page other than that indicated at the bottom of the story.

Or the continuation does not appear anywhere else in the newspaper. In other words, the subject article is left hanging and the reader is left in the dark on the information that has been mysteriously withheld from him by some unknown soul at the editorial room.

These errors happen when last-minute changes are made on the stories, like when a story that was originally planned to come out at a certain page and is continued elsewhere is removed to give way to a more important article.

With the deadline to release the final draft of the newspaper fast closing in, the editorial assistant may forget to check if the continuation of the earlier story had been removed and the new story's jump is placed on the vacated space.

If there is sensational late-breaking news that requires emptying portions of the jump page to accommodate the rest of the news, the required change in the continuation page of the news that was yanked out may not be made due to time constraints.

As always, those mistakes will be discovered the following day. Either by the editors who go through the pages with a fine-toothed comb every day or readers who must have been proofreaders in their previous lives.

Printing blues

With regard to the missing sections of the newspaper, I learned that only Section "A" (which consists of, among others, the front page, Second Front Page and Across the Nation) and Metro and Business sections are printed the night before the issue is released to the public.

The rest of the sections (like Entertainment and Lifestyle) are printed during the daytime or from morning till 7 p.m. of the same day. After 7 p.m., the presses are cleaned in time to handle the three sections mentioned earlier.

The printing press has been configured in such a way that once a set of sections is completed, it comes out neatly arranged and bundled and ready for transfer to the trucks that will deliver them to their respective dealers.

No manual count of the number of sections or pages printed is done at all because that task is left to the press to perform through some complex internal mechanism.

The bundled sections are dropped off at the dealers' designated stations. The dealers sort out the bundles and collate individual sets consisting of as many sections as there may be for a particular issue, with Sunday having the biggest number of sections.

The newspaper sets are immediately sent to the newsstands or houses of regular patrons. The sorting and delivery have to be done real quick. Any delay in delivery may result in the reader buying another newspaper that is already available at the stand or the regular patron looking for another delivery boy who can put his copy at his doorstep at the earliest time possible.

It is in the process of sorting out and putting the newspaper in one set that the problem of "missing" sections arise. In the haste to collate the sections, more than one copy of a section is sometimes pulled out and placed in a set. This is specially true in sections that consists of four pages only; they are so thin that it is difficult to determine by touch if more than one copy has been set aside.

By the time the sorting reaches the end of the pile, the sets will be lacking in sections that had more than one copy placed in the sets. Under pressure to deliver the sets immediately, the newspaper boys often hesitate to go through their pile all over again to find out which sets had more than one copy of a particular section. The sets just have to delivered to their patrons without delay.

Unlucky is the reader who gets a newspaper set that happened to be at the end of the pile when the sorting of sections was made. He has to make do with whatever sections the newspaper boy sorted out and collated for him.

* * *

In last week's column, I wrote that Danny Mariano is a columnist of the Star. I was wrong. He writes for Today. My apologies.

* * *

The readers' advocate may be reached at the following address: "The Readers' Advocate" c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City. Or through fax nos. 897-4793 to 94, or readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph.

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Myth of economic benefits from tobacco industry

CONGRATULATIONS to President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo for single-handedly placing our country at the top of the list of Asian countries with the funniest policy on tobacco control!

Kudos also for affirming once and for all what we suspected all along: that our leaders will sacrifice anything and everything on the altar of foreign investments: our dignity, our pride, our health, our lives.

President Macapagal's presence at the groundbreaking of Philip Morris last week reveals her lack of understanding of both local and international policy developments on tobacco control. Locally, the much hailed Philippine Clean Air Act which categorically bans smoking in enclosed public places in order to protect non-smokers from second-hand smoke and internationally, the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control of the World Health Organization in which several government agencies have been actively involved since 1999 in order to support global efforts to arrest the single largest cause of preventable death and disease worldwide.

Ignorance of these two milestones in tobacco control policy brings our country much shame.

However, if consistency in policy is too much to ask, maybe we can get down to some political realities:

- Two Filipinos—smokers and non-smokers—die from tobacco-related diseases every hour, resulting in 20,000 deaths each year. (Even the Abu Sayyaf can't beat the record of the tobacco industry on this score!)
- The economic losses (tobacco-related health care, cleaning costs, man-hours lost at work and premature deaths) from tobacco use is as much as P46 billion a year compared to revenues in tobacco tax duties and fees which only totaled P21.4 billion in 1998. (Economic benefits from protecting the tobacco industry are a myth.)
- Based on the 2000 Global Youth Tobacco Survey, a fifth of all Filipino children start smoking at age 10. The WHO estimates that approximately half of these children will die prematurely because of addiction to nicotine. (Educational programs for the youth such as the one that Philip Morris wants to sponsor won't work.)
- The poor bear the greatest burden for smoking since they cannot afford chemotherapy for cancer, daily medications for asthma, or open-heart surgery for clogged coronary arteries. (The pro-tobacco policy is anti-poor.)

Is all this worth 1,000 new jobs, Ms President?

Any support that the government or any private institution will receive from Philip Morris to promote educational programs on tobacco control is blood money. Nicotine addiction from cigarette smoking should be placed in the same category as heroin and shabu addiction.

Scientific evidence here and abroad shows that tobacco consumption cannot be reduced by educational programs alone unless this occurs in an environment where there is a strong national regulatory policy to raise the price of tobacco products, ban its sale to minors and ban all forms of advertising and promotion.

The presence of the head of government at the groundbreaking of a twilight industry that was refused in other countries (that have serious tobacco control policies and stronger regulatory powers over health hazards) is tantamount to declaring war on health advocates who have struggled for many years to protect public health. Worse, it ensures the death of thousands of Filipinos.

It's hilarious; we are all in tears!

This is in behalf of the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control Alliance-Philippines (FCAP), an organization of 56 individual and group members who support the national policy for tobacco regulation.—**SUSAN PINEDA MERCADO, M.D., president, FCAP, c/o Philippine Cancer Society, Philippine Cancer Society Bldg., 310 San Rafael St., San Miguel, Manila**

Time to be quiet and work

I WOULD just like to request opposition Senators Edgardo Angara, Tito Sotto, Sergio Osmeña, Rodolfo Biazon and Aquilino Pimentel to heed the call of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and be quiet unless what they have to say is relevant to the lives of the Filipino people. Enough of comments/criticisms such as "President de Bolada" or "we will not accept crumbs in Senate committees." Does it matter which committee a senator receives if he is working for the same team (i.e. the Republic of the Philippines)? *Hoy, magtrabaho na kayo tulad ni* GMA *at napapagod na kami sa kakaantay!*

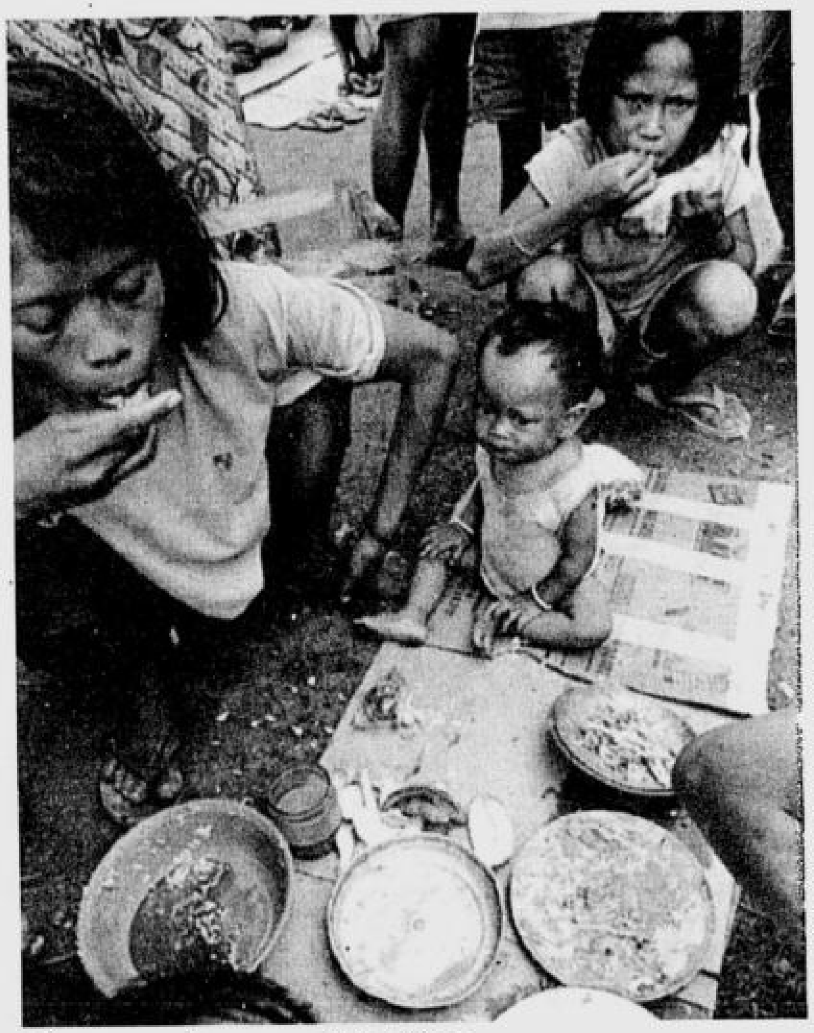
The same goes for Teddy Casiño, Satur Ocampo and their organization, Bayan Muna. Frankly, I did not go to Edsa Dos to support their ideology but I respect their views a lot. However, Bayan Muna is already represented in Congress. If they have problems with policy and national issues such as the daily minimum wage, why don't they bring it there? They are now obligated to the taxpaying public so they are expected to work in Congress and not in the streets.

An active opposition is indeed healthy for democracy and the economy but when it becomes a hurdle to national recovery, it no longer makes any sense. I respect the views of the opposition senators and organizations such as Bayan Muna but for once I would like to see all elected officials, individuals and socio-civic organizations place the national interest before their own.—**JOMAR LACSON, 529 Aquino Village, Parañaque City**

Gas, diesel outlets only for transport unions

BEFORE THE WAR the government had a gasoline outlet near the Sta. Cruz Bridge where government employees could buy gasoline at prices lower than those charged at regular gasoline stations.

Why do the different transport unions not set up diesel and motor oil outlets just for their members? That way they could pass on to the membership the margins made by gasoline and diesel stations. There are rather large margins involved. All one has to do is make a survey of different outlets and see how the prices differ.—**BIENVENIDO A. TAN JR., Unit 7A, The Valero Tower, Valero Street, Salcedo Village, Makati City**



Can we have effective agricultural reforms?

THE PROCLAIMED anti-poverty plan of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, complete with a concrete program of action, deserves full and undivided support.

However, I have some questions.

Can the plan be carried out within the prevailing framework of globalization policies? The same policies found by the United Nations to rapidly widen the gap between the many who are poor and the few who are rich within nations and among nations?

Starting this year, tariffs within the Asean would be cut down to zero percent. Why should farmers plant if they cannot make money because our market is deluged by cheap competing farm products from Thailand, Indonesia, Vietnam, and Malaysia? Why should our farmers heed our government and plant when, by virtue of its improvident commitments to the World Bank, International Monetary Fund, World Trade Organization, Afta and Apec, it is powerless to help them?

Please note: Right now, the Asian Development Bank is arm-twisting our government to dissolve the National Food Authority and privatize the importation and distribution of rice. Unless these are done, the ADB would not release to us already approved loans. Who will plant one million hectares with rice, knowing cheap rice imported by the ADB's clients from Thailand and Vietnam would flood our market?

Would the businesses and jobs generated by the plan, if any, make up for the businesses and jobs destroyed by import liberalization since 1994 and are still being destroyed today, especially in manufacturing and agriculture? Remember, even the manufacturing activities of old established multinational companies like Colgate-Palmolive, Johnson & Johnson, Pfizer, Union Carbide etc. were shut down by globalization, resulting in massive loss of jobs. Whatever manufacturing and agriculture still remain in our country are now already programmed for destruction under Afta starting this year and under Apec starting 2004, not to speak of accelerating import liberalization under the WTO in the next decade.

If the many who are poor among our people are to benefit from President Macapagal's plan, our government must have the backbone to act independently in the interest of our people. Like what Malaysia's Mahathir did when he imposed capital controls. Like what Prime Minister Thaksin is now doing in Thailand.—**AMADO GAT INCIONG, Unit 301 Union Square Condominium, 145 15th Avenue, Cubao, Quezon City**

Also a vow of poverty

PROBABLY, we can help solve our many problems if all public servants, elected or appointed, from President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo down to the last municipal employee will include a vow of poverty to the oath of allegiance during the flag ceremony each Monday morning. The oath of poverty should also be made by members of the families of public servants, their close relatives and even friends.

What is happening to our country is, to say the least, frustrating. Overseas Filipinos like me are convinced that President Macapagal is doing everything possible to solve our problems. Please let us fully support her administration.

It appears to me that many public servants think that public service is a position to enrich themselves and not to make a sacrifice. For really, do you know of public servants and even politicians who have become poor?—**OSCAR R. LANDICHO orlandicho@hotmail.com**

Unbelievable statement

SEN. Edgardo Angara has really sunk in my esteem. To say that Senators Robert Jaworski and Ramon Revilla have lived up to the tradition of the Senate as an institution of good men with good intentions is the last straw. Where has Angara been these last four years? In the mountain of Kilimanjaro? Or is he just closing his eyes to the follies that Jaworski and Revilla have shamelessly displayed over the years in order to secure their votes for the Senate presidency? Woe to our Senate and woe to the Filipino people. —**CHRISTOPHER MARCO, Pasig City**

Daughters of destiny

COMMENTARY

Belinda A. Aquino

HONOLULU—In Southeast Asia we do not only like but love the word "destiny." The word has a certain magic to it. Perhaps because it's usually associated with good fortune, good name, good legacy and good karma. There's no thought more elevating than that you're destined for greatness. It's a gift from the gods, a predetermined fate. You have no control over it. It's just there. And it's yours.

This magic term spills into the world of politics, defined in the Western sense as "rational choice." In Southeast Asian politics, it counts for a lot to have a sense of destiny.

I think Cory Aquino projected this aura, this sense of destiny in her quest for the presidency. She did not only have the name and her husband's martyrdom behind her, but also the compelling image of a savior of the nation from the evil that was Ferdinand Marcos.

Now, another daughter of destiny has come on center stage in Southeast Asian politics: Megawati Sukarnoputri, whose surname means "daughter of Sukarno." Sukarno was the charismatic founder of modern and independent Indonesia and first president of a country that spreads over 13,000 islands and is divided by hundreds of languages, ethnicities and other cleavages. It's the world's fourth most populous country, this neighbor of ours shaped like a cradle to the south.

The international spotlight is on this heretofore low-key daughter of a famous father whose spellbinding presence held his island nation in thrall for more than two decades. Megawati has the name, the reflected charisma and the popular support to consolidate her newfound power. She's got not only destiny but the momentum.

Only three years ago, when Suharto's ouster sent the country scouring for a successor, Megawati emerged as a major leader of the opposition. She was seen as the equivalent of Cory Aquino and Aung San Suu Kyi of Burma. One Western diplomat said of Megawati, "She seems to have an almost mystical faith in her destiny."(There's that word again.) She was outmaneuvered by the Wahid forces and she reluctantly but realistically settled for the post of vice president.

Her constituency spans a broad spectrum of followers often referred to as "Sukarnoists." It's not a pejorative term like "Marcos loyalists." One data source, called "Indonesia after Suharto," defines "Sukarnoists" as "people who are basically secular, loosely nationalistic, Muslim but not Islamist."

Megawati pursues a political program based on secular nationalism and democratic pluralism, in keeping with the best tenets of Pancasila, the Indonesian national ideology advocated by her father. This secular thrust of Megawati's agenda makes the conservative groups unhappy, and they see Megawati as not "sufficiently Islamic" to be president of the biggest Muslim constituency in the world. At the same time, there are misgivings about the possibility of her ending up (if she's not already) in the grip of the powerful Indonesian military. This remains to be seen and she remains to be tested. Not fair to predict this early.

We have our own daughter of destiny with a glorious name. It doesn't hurt to call her President Macapagal occasionally, instead of President Arroyo, because that evokes the legacy from a father whose name was "Diosdado," meaning "God-given." In retrospect, the elder Macapagal was an underrated president, and if only he had beaten Marcos, there would have been be no disaster lasting to this day to bedevil daughter Gloria, now a president herself. Ah, hindsight!

Both Megawati and Gloria seem to have staying power, but their tasks are doubly difficult in societies where women are still second-class citizens, and where politics is essentially the domain of the male of the species. Rightly or wrongly, the Philippines is often referred to as a country of "strong women," and Indonesia a "matriarchal society." Both should see this as a launching pad to do something substantial and meaningful on women's issues.

As for destiny, it could be a political advantage, but it could also be a shortcoming. Destiny, especially self-imposed destiny, is not the measure of modern politics. Likewise, destiny is equated with dynasty, not just as a matter of alliteration. It harks back to a feudal past.

What both need to articulate more vigorously is vision, a more pro-active direction spelling out how they will lead their respective impoverished and divisive constituencies into the future.

For in these times of continuing political uncertainty in both countries, the battle is clearly drawn between the powerful forces for change and the equally, if not more, powerful elements of the status quo.

And clearly the choice is for Megawati and Gloria to make. What is past is prologue. No one is expecting them to commit political suicide, but they can carve their own destiny, if that term has to be used, by opting for radical change.

Belinda A. Aquino is professor of political science and Asian studies and director of the Center for Philippine Studies at the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

Living wages and human rights

THEOBEN Jedan Orosa (PDI, Letters, 7/20/01) is only partly correct in saying that wage increase must be coupled with increase in productivity.

The present petition for wage increase is very valid. Whether or not labor productivity should increase with the minimum wage is not necessarily the case in the status quo. The persistent increase of oil and other prime commodities have practically rendered the existing minimum wage inutile for the laborers' families in the country.

The laborers and their families are not asking for luxurious treatment. They are merely demanding what's due them. We have to realize that they also have to survive and be guaranteed at least the minimum conditions for a decent life. By this, I mean that our laborers' families can eat two or three meals a day and still be able to send their children to public schools. The provision of these things is the inherent responsibility of government. It is a responsibility supposedly recognized by peace-loving countries under the auspices of the United Nations when they signed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948.

The issue on wage increase must not be viewed in a vacuum. It must also be seen in the context of humanitarian standards. We, the educated few, have overlooked this for so long. It is about time that we do our share in uplifting the sorry state of our laborers.—**BRYAN A. SAN JUAN, Building 2 Unit 214, UP Bliss Diliman, Quezon City**

Ad keeps alive provincial stereotype

I DO not see anything degrading to women in the recently sensationalized advertisement concerning a woman alighting from a bus and finding comfort in the rice paddies. What I find blatantly degrading not only to women but to the people in the provinces is the recent advertisement about a bath soap where a fair-skinned lady says that her seemingly flawless skin is the effect of her constant use of the soap and says: *"Ang ganda-ganda ko na nga, ayaw pang sabihin; alam mo naman sa probinsiya, walang marunong bumati."*

The makers of this advertisement are implying that nothing good or positive can come from the provinces and the people are so dense and dimwitted they cannot compliment the flawlessness of the lady's skin. In effect, people get the idea that to be provincial is equivalent to being unsophisticated, crude and insensitive. This mentality of the Filipino, especially those who grew up in Manila and have not visited the provinces, continues to divide our country and hinders our being united and rising as one great nation. For simply, how can we rise together when some of our brothers and sisters prefer to put us down instead of lifting us up with them?

If the makers of this advertisement can visit Leyte, maybe they will change the script to "*Alam mo naman sa* Leyte, *ang ganda-ganda ng mga tao, hindi lang panlabas kundi pati na rin sa kalooban. Ang sariwa pa ng hangin at maraming prutas at gulay. 'Yon ang nagpapaganda sa kutis ko.*"—**CAPT. ZENEN A. CABAHUG, chief, Women's and Children's Concern Desk, Police-Community Relations Division, Camp Kangleon, Palo, Leyte**

Will Gordons ever leave Olongapo alone?

THEY have ruled Olongapo for the last 40 years. From father to son, to daughter-in-law, Olongapo continues to endure the Gordons. They will not let go. They will not let others take over. Such a stranglehold on power is not new to us. It is so typical of *trapos* who are so much a part of the beautiful and energizing Philippine tourist landscape.

Last March 21, 2001, several residents of Olongapo City ran and trooped to the streets to express their desire for change. They have had enough of the Gordons. If change meant anything, it would at least entail the end of the Gordon dynasty. As the run from Subic finally wound up in Olongapo City, hundreds had already joined us. On their shirts were printed, "Hindi Na Kami Takot (We are no longer afraid)! Of whom?

But Richard Gordon is now tourism secretary. No problem with that. Perhaps he can make a difference from his predecessors. Perhaps he can give tourism new life and meaning. After a few months, this did not happen. Employees have been verbally abused and belittled. The Department of Tourism seems to have become a little Olongapo where little Richard had his way all the time.

The DOTEA has made a number of appeals to President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to change Gordon with someone who does not only know the tourist industry but also understands the people behind it. The DOT is a national institution. It requires someone with a wider and richer perspective to run it. President Macapagal at the very least should have conducted a thorough consultation to get candidates from among the career officers. It is not too late for Ms Macapagal to listen. She must listen to the tourism workers now!

If new politics is not just an empty embellishment on an equally empty political system, then it must be seen and felt through the choice of leaders. Our political bankruptcy is beginning to show more and more. *Trapos* are back at the helm of government. Ms Macapagal needs them. They need her. Ms Macapagal however can still choose to change that which is directly within her powers. She can change Gordon to bring about change in the DOT.

It took the eruption of Mount Pinatubo to drive away the US military bases and everything that went with it. Subic and Olongapo were the havens of prostitution and child sex during the time of Richard Gordon. Do we need another volcanic eruption to effect genuine change in the DOT? Do we need another volcanic eruption to jolt Malacañang to listen to those working and fighting for genuine change?—**FR. ROBERTO P. REYES, Gomburza**

The WORLD

Luverne B. Gueco, Editor

CHINESE President Jiang Zemin (right) meets with US Secretary of State Colin Powell at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing July 28. Powell, the highest-level US official to visit China during the Bush administration, visited Beijing to try to overcome six months of strained Sino-US relations.

REUTERS

Powell says visit soothed tensions

BEIJING—US Secretary of State Colin Powell on Sunday left Beijing convinced he had made important progress in soothing recent antagonism tearing at fragile Sino-US relations.

Powell left on his US military jet for Australia, the final leg of a five-nation Asia-Pacific tour, following an intense day of talks Saturday with top Chinese leaders including President Jiang Zemin.

While no major breakthroughs were evident, the consultations appeared to tilt the crucial relationship between the world's sole superpower and its most populous nation away from the storms of the first six months of President George Bush's administration.

Powell told reporters Saturday that the route to easier relations was through frank discussions of the many disagreements between the two sides.

"We are reaching out and building on the areas of common interest and where we have disagreements, not shrinking from those disagreements, not saying they don't exist but facing them and talking about them," he said.

Powell, the most senior Bush official to visit China so far, left with agreements from Beijing to renew a human rights dialogue and to set up an experts' committee to discuss US fears over its missile technology exports.

That was in line with expectations in both capitals before the visit, that given the huge volume of disagreements on human rights, missile defense, and Taiwan that only small steps forward were likely.

Powell said he was certain that the diplomatic crisis sparked when an American E-P3 spyplane and a Chinese jet collided over the South China Sea in April had finally been consigned to history.

"With respect to the EP-3—that is behind us," said Powell.

The focus in the relationship is now expected to shift to Bush's planned visit to Shanghai for the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation forum in Shanghai in October and subsequent state visit to Beijing.

Powell promised "no holds barred" discussions right away on human rights, but gave no details of where the sessions would take place.

"We plan to talk about all the human rights issues that are of concern to us—we expect them to do the same," he said.

China improved the atmosphere of the Powell talks by freeing US-based scholars Gao Zhan and Qin Guangguang on medical parole Thursday, days after they were sentenced to 10 years in jail for spying for Taiwan.

Powell on Saturday avoided mentioning individual human rights cases, a tactic, which has enraged Chinese leaders in the past.

"I was more interested in raising the whole issue of human rights and the rule of law and treating people properly," he said, in remarks sure to disappoint activists who wanted him to present a lis' of detainees. *AFP*

US explores 'space bomber'

WASHINGTON—The Pentagon is exploring development of a futuristic "space bomber" that could destroy targets on the other side of the world in half an hour, according to a newspaper report.

The Los Angeles Times wrote Saturday that the proposed bomber, possibly manned, would blast off like a long-range missile and could drop precision bombs from heights of 60 miles or more.

Advocates say such a bomber could strike key targets, but would remain out of reach of conventional air defenses.

One major drawback, however is that the project could also intensify the growing international debate over the militarization of space.

A document issued by Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld directed the Pentagon last month to look into "sub-orbital space vehicles" that "would be valuable for conducting rapid global strikes," according to the Times.

The Rumsfeld paper, called "Guidance and Terms of Reference for the 2001 Quadrennial Defense Review," offers guidance for the military officials planning the road map for the reforms in US defense that Rumsfeld hopes to make.

Traveling 15 times faster than current heavy bombers and soaring 10 times higher, the weapon would have the capacity to destroy distant targets while allowing for a smaller and less vulnerable US military. *AFP*

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MESSAGES

MALACAÑAN PALACE - MANILA

My esteemed greetings and felicitations to the men and women of the **Institute for Studies on Diabetes Foundation, Inc.** as they hold the **Third Ricardo E. Fernando Professorial Lecture.**

Under our vision to eradicate poverty by the end of this decade, our Administration is focusing on the formulation and adoption of a comprehensive public health policy that will address the demand of our countrymen for more and better health services. Notwithstanding our limited resources and our growing population, the government is resolute in eradicating the existing inequity in our people's access to health services.

Through undertakings such as this lecture, your organization is registering its own commitment to public health. This is a testimony, not only of your desire to raise your level of excellence and professionalism but also your determination to do your share in nation building through the advancement of the science and practice of medicine in the country.

It is my earnest hope that your noble endeavors will be emulated by the rest of the members of our medical community for us to be able to reach the most vulnerable sectors of our society. May this endeavor inspire your membership to continue doing its share in the Herculean task of providing accessible and quality health care services for every Filipino.

More power and *magsama-sama tayo sa kaunlaran!*

GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Warm felicitations to the officers and staff of the Institute for Studies on Diabetes Foundation, Inc. as you hold the 3rd Ricardo E. Fernando Professorial Lecture on July 30, 2001.

The rise in the number of degenerative and lifestyle-related diseases among Filipinos has been increasingly alarming. The increasing public expenditure in the management of these disease greatly strains the already meager resources of our people and that of the government. The onset of complications of diabetes makes the treatment of this disease even more expensive.

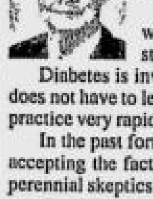
In this light, the Department of Health has taken appropriate measures to prevent the onset of degenerative and lifestyle-related diseases by encouraging healthy lifestyles, including exercise, proper nutrition and promoting the early detection and management of diseases like diabetes.

I commend your full support and commitment to diabetes control by providing invaluable information specifically to our diabetes patients, as well as to our health care givers who attend to their needs. Together, we can lighten the burden of this disease and work towards the vision of a healthier nation.

Mabuhay!

(Sgd.) **MANUEL M. DAYRIT, MD, MSc.**
Secretary of Health

UERMMMC – INSTITUTE FOR STUDIES ON DIABETES FOUNDATION, INC.



The University of the East Ramon Magsaysay Memorial Medical Center Institute for Studies on Diabetes Foundation, Inc. is 12 years old today. It has spread some 200 doctors all over the Philippines tasked with providing improved diabetes care especially in areas deprived of physicians.

The last words the ISD student hears when leaving the Institute is – "Go where there are no diabetes services, especially in government hospitals, and start one even if you have to do it as charity".

Diabetes is invading the Philippines in a very drastic way. As a general practitioner, one does not have to lean on an evidence-based survey to realize that diabetics are increasing in our practice very rapidly.

In the past forty years I have witnessed the resistance of both public and private sectors to accepting the fact that we are in the middle of a dangerous epidemic. Only lately have the perennial skeptics started to give in. International experience is definitely threatening. We are reacting very sluggishly.

The country should wake up to the reality of a silent but rapid epidemic going on in the country and around it – with disabilities ranging from severe infections; eyes, nerves and kidneys thru heart and brain and limbs; expensive ventures in dialysis, kidney transplant, coronary artery bypass grafting amputations – winding up in significant mortalities due to micro and macrovascular diseases.

All these are due to drastic changes in our lifestyle – sweets, fats, salt – eat all you can, drink all you can, remarkable weight gain, lack of exercise, sedentary lifestyle, and smoking. We are now suffering from our chronic, deliberate abuse of the laws of nature.

The future is bleak and needs immediate attention of both private and public sectors. Intervention is heavily dependent on drastic lifestyle modifications. Dedication of participants is more important than cost.

We have initiated a few programs on diabetes prevention and control in government and NGOs. Heaven bless these projects.

The diabetics of the next few generations will come from the pampered and unknowing children and teen-agers of today. Everyone must realize that the future of the country entirely depends on what we start doing TODAY! The UERM ISD has blazed a trail over the past twelve years hoping that concerned citizens will follow.

(Sgd.) **RICARDO E. FERNANDO, MD**
Chairman & President

UERMMMC-INSTITUTE FOR STUDIES ON DIABETES FOUNDATION, INC.
PHILIPPINE SOCIETY OF DIABETOLOGISTS
UE-ISDFI ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

3rd Ricardo E. Fernando Professorial Lecture

July 30, 2001
Isla Ballroom 2 & 3, Edsa Shangri-La Hotel
Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City

PROGRAMME

Morning Session

7:00	Registration
8:00	Invocation ***Dr. Elizabeth Ann V. Fernando*** Philippine National Anthem ***Pfizer*** ISDFI Hymn
8:30	Welcome Remarks ***Dr. Rima T. Tan*** Introduction of the Guest Speaker ***Dr. Araceli A. Panelo***
9:00	Role of Insulin Resistance & Impaired Insulin Secretion in the Pathogenesis of Type 2 Diabetes ***Dr. John E. Gerich*** ***University of Rochester*** ***Rochester, NY USA***
10:30	Awarding of Medal
10:30	Coffee Break
11:00	Case Presentation

Afternoon Session

1:00	Alumni Workshop ***Dr. Richard Elwyn V. Fernando***
3:30	Coffee Break
4:00	Business Meeting ***Dr. Leorino M. Sobrepeña***
6:00	Closing Remarks ***Dr. Ricardo E. Fernando***
6:30	3rd Annual Homecoming and Fellowship night
7:00	Serve Dinner

Dr. Editha Arceo-Dalisay
Masters of Ceremony

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Documentation

Editha Arceo-Dalisay, MD, MS
Grace De Los Santos, MD, MS
Ways and Means

Edwin E. Liwanag, MD, MS
Agnes T. Cruz, MD, MS
Fellowship Night

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Report: US named Reds to Indonesia in 1960s purge

WASHINGTON—Indonesian authorities used lists of names prepared by the US Embassy in Jakarta during the bloody purge of Indonesia's communist party in the 1960s, according to State Department documents released by a university here despite CIA attempts to suppress them, university officials said.

The documents, published by George Washington University's National Security Archive, contain "significant new documentation" on the purge, one of the darkest and least explained chapters of the 20th century, university officials said in a statement.

The documents describe an airgram sent Aug. 10, 1966 by Marshall Green, then the US ambassador to Indonesia, stating that a list of leaders of the Indonesia Communist Party (PKI) prepared by the embassy "is apparently being used by Indonesian security authorities who seem to lack even the simplest overt information on PKI leadership at this time."

The documents reveal that on Dec. 2, 1965, Green endorsed a 50 million rupiah covert payment to the movement leading the repression against the communists, the statement said.

All the documents, included in official State Department histories of Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Greece, Turkey and Cyprus from 1964-1968, were declassified in 1998 and 1999. But the State Department and CIA have blocked their release, according to the statement.

However, the volume on Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines, part of the prestigious series "Foreign Relations of the United States, was sent to the non-governmental archive by the government printing office, apparently by error.

Estimates of the number of Indonesians killed by soldiers and fellow citizens in the 1960s range from 100,000 to one million.

The purge accompanied the 1965 rise to power of Suharto, who toppled Indonesia's first president Sukarno and ruled with an iron first until 1998.

Documentation of US involvement in the murky events of the mid-1960s comes at a delicate time since Sukarno's daughter, Megawati Sukar-noputri, was named Indonesia's new president on Monday. *AFP*

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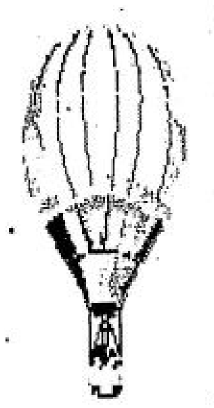

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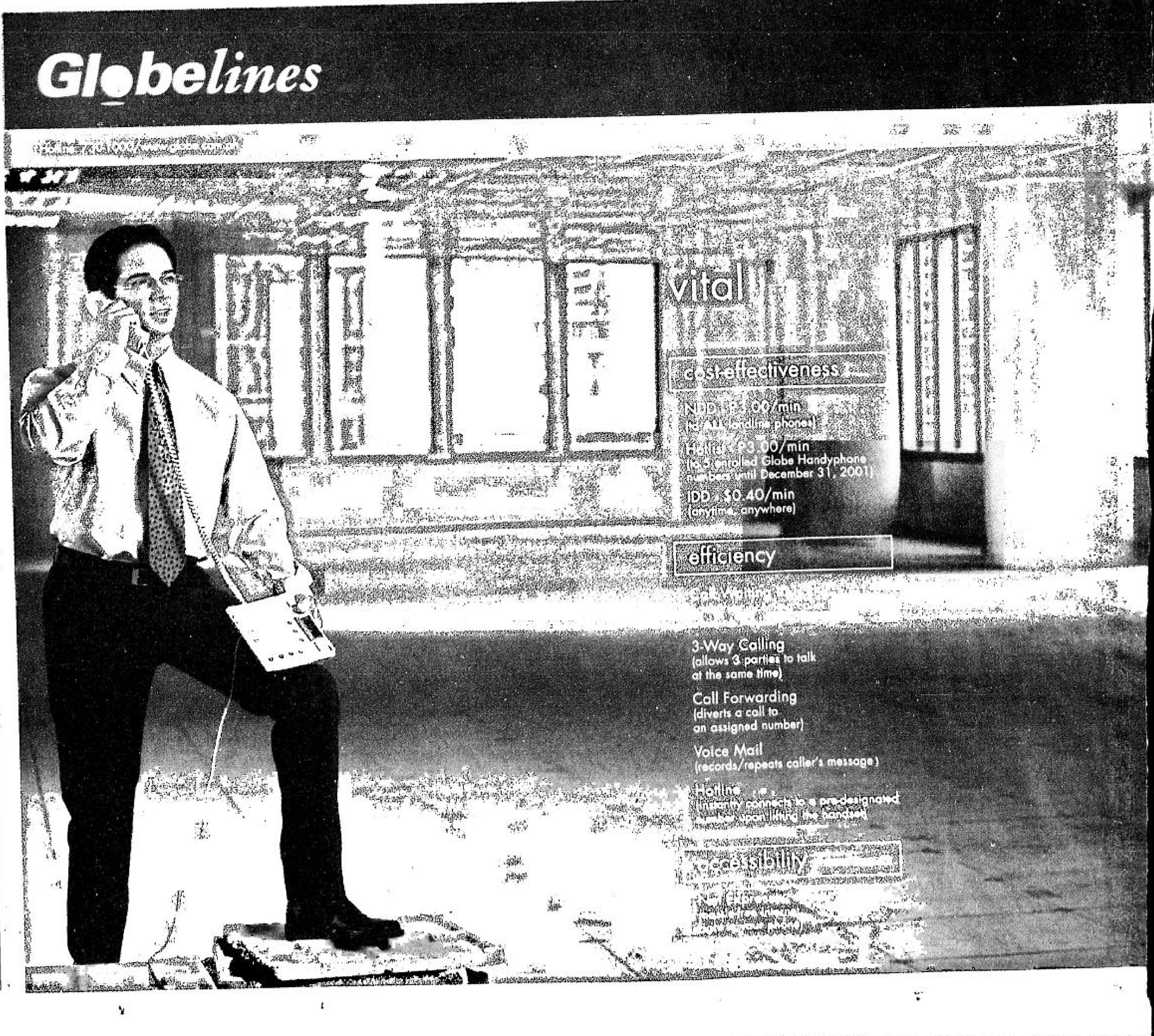
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Koizumi seeks reform mandate at Diet polls

TOKYO—Japan went to the polls Sunday with the personal popularity of reform-minded Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi expected to help his ruling coalition retain a majority in the upper house of parliament.

Polling stations across the country opened at 7 a.m. and were to close at 8 p.m., to be immediately followed by vote-counting.

Koizumi has charmed the nation with his promise of reform and populist approach, whipping up a craze befitting a superstar in the three months since he took over from his predecessor, gaffe-prone Yoshiro Mori.

But the new premier has yet to spell out his plan for "structural reform" of the ailing economy, amid strong resistance for changes within his Liberal Democratic Party (LDP)—an ambiguity which helped Tokyo share prices dip to a 16-year low last Monday.

Major opinion polls have indicated the conservative LDP and its junior partners in the ruling coalition—the Buddhist-backed centrist party Komeito and the New Conservative Party—will retain majority strength in the secondary chamber of parliament. The coalition also holds a majority in the Lower House.

Currently, the three-party alliance holds 138 seats, comfortably clear of the simple majority of 124 in the House of Councilors. Of those, 77 seats are up for reelection, with 63 needed to hang on to the majority.

Elections are held every three years to elect half the upper house for six-year terms. *AFP*

Fujimori ordered his ex-wife killed, former spy chief says

LIMA, Peru—Captured former spy chief Vladimiro Montesinos has told the ex-wife of disgraced former President Alberto Fujimori that the autocratic leader ordered that she be killed, her spokesperson said Saturday.

Alberto Bautista, lawyer and adviser to Congresswoman Susana Higuchi, said they visited Montesinos at his request Friday at the naval prison, where he is being held on dozens of charges ranging from narcotics trafficking to directing a paramilitary death squad.

"Montesinos asked Susana forgiveness for all the harm he has done her," Bautista told The Associated Press. He said Montesinos told Higuchi that Fujimori "ordered her eliminated, but to make it look like an accident."

But he added that Montesinos claimed "that he is very Catholic and that he would not permit an order to murder."

"He admits that committed crimes and that he has to be tried and judged, but that he never killed and never trafficked in narcotics," Bautista said. "He said everything he did was on the direct orders of Alberto Fujimori."

Higuchi has accused Montesinos, who was captured last month in Venezuela, of driving a wedge between her family, holding her captive and ordering his agents to torture her.

Bautista also said Montesinos provided information about where Fujimori allegedly holds secret bank accounts, but declined to elaborate.

Fujimori has denied his ex-wife's allegation that he deposited some $12.5 million from Japanese donors meant for Peruvian children into a personal bank account.

Fujimori stripped Higuchi of the title of first lady in 1994 after she accused him of tolerating widespread corruption in his administration. He said she was disloyal, as well as "unstable and easily influenced" by his political rivals. Their divorce was finalized in 1996.

Higuchi was elected to Congress last year on the opposition ticket of the Independent Moralizing Front party.

Montesinos was known for years as Fujimori's "Rasputin" for the influence he wielded over the dictatorial leader, isolating Fujimori from key aides and family members. Montesinos was undone by a leaked video last year showing him bribing an opposition congressman.

Higuchi was one of the lawmakers who presented the video, which plummeted Peru into political turmoil that led to Fujimori fleeing to Japan, his parents' homeland, where he remains in self-imposed exile.

Days before he left Peru, Higuchi claimed she had been tortured on numerous occasions by order of the president and his former intelligence adviser. The allegations were never substantiated. *AP*

REUTERS

PERUVIAN President Alejandro Toledo waves while heading for the Presidential Palace after his inauguration in Congress in Lima July 28. Toledo, protester-turned-president, vowed to beat crushing poverty "in a new dawn of irrevocable democracy."

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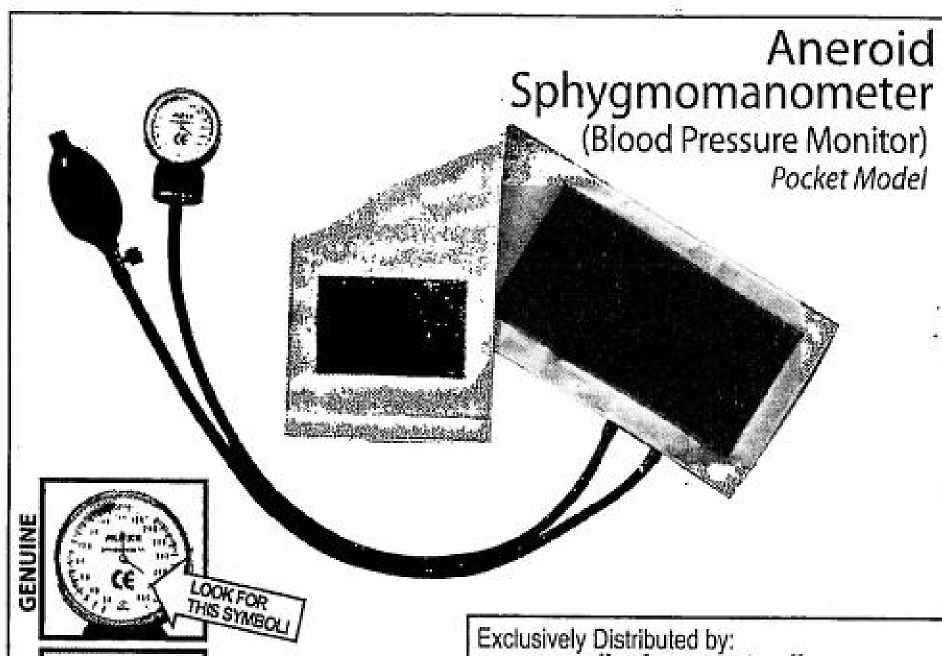

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Probers say Milosevic tried to erase proof of atrocities

PETROVO SELO, Yugoslavia—On a grassy hill nestled in the shade of thick locust trees, 76 fresh graves contain grisly evidence that Yugoslav and outside investigators say could be used to convict Slobodan Milosevic of crimes against humanity.

Fearing Nato would take Kosovo in 1999 and discover mass graves, Milosevic dispatched teams to dig up the bodies of ethnic Albanians killed by Yugoslav security forces in the rebellious territory and rebury them where they wouldn't be found, a Serbian government minister, a police captain and other investigative sources have told The Associated Press.

Milosevic was surrounded by men who formed a tight circle of silence around him. But authorities in today's Yugoslavia feel no obligation to protect the former president, now behind bars and awaiting trial before the UN war crimes tribunal in The Hague, Netherlands. On the contrary, they seem anxious to distance themselves from his regime.

In recent weeks, they have revealed the existence of at least four mass graves in different parts of Serbia—graves that contain the tangled remains of at least 800 victims of Milosevic's brutal 1998-99 crackdown on ethnic Albanians in Kosovo.

Now, in startling detail, Serbia's new interior minister, Dusan Mihajlovic, and police Capt. Dragan Karleusa, in charge of mass grave investigations, say evidence is mounting that Milosevic ordered a cover-up in an effort to erase evidence of atrocities.

Toma Fila, Milosevic's lawyer, dismisses talk of a cover-up as "complete nonsense." But Mihajlovic, who heads the police, says: "It's clear this was a case of removing evidence of criminal acts."

Other high-ranking police officials, interviewed by the AP on condition of anonymity, say Operation Depth 2 existed and was three-pronged—exhume corpses from mass graves in Kosovo and rebury them deep in Serbia proper or dump them in the Danube; destroy other bodies in Kosovo by incineration or other means; and move some remains within Kosovo from mass graves to smaller, ordinary graves.

Karleusa says Depth 2 began within days of March 24, 1999, when Nato started its 78-day air war to punish Milosevic for his crackdown on independence-minded ethnic Albanians in Kosovo, a campaign that killed at least 8,000 people.

Karleusa says Milosevic summoned top police and military officers to his White Palace in Belgrade's plush Dedinje District to convey his concerns about his regime's crimes in Kosovo.

Karleusa did not attend the meeting, but since Milosevic's ouster, he and the other police officials say they have reconstructed what happened there.

The officials say that Lt. Gen. Vlastimir Djordjevic, the then deputy interior minister and no relation to the Danube diver, expressed alarm that "the Nato aggressors" would discover what Serb forces had done to ethnic Albanian civilians.

Milosevic, the officials said, was brisk and to the point: The terrain would have to be cleaned up, and quickly.

The top security brass needed no further explanation. They knew what Milosevic meant: Mass graves in Kosovo containing the remains of ethnic Albanians—and the bodies of those yet to be killed by Serb forces during the coming Nato airstrikes—had to be dug up and taken as far as possible from Kosovo.

That or be destroyed beyond recognition. *AP*

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Jewish extremists defy Arabs

JERUSALEM—A small group of ultra-nationalist Jews briefly laid a symbolic cornerstone for a new Jewish temple in Jerusalem on Sunday in a ceremony that went peacefully despite fears of Israeli-Palestinian clashes.

"The ceremony went off without incident," Jerusalem police spokesperson Shmuel Ben Ruby told AFP.

"About a dozen members of the Temple Mount Faithful brought the stone by truck to the outside of the Old City. They conducted a brief ceremony of several minutes and then the truck took the stone away," he added.

The tiny Temple Mount and Land of Israel Faithful Movement won approval from Israel's Supreme Court on Wednesday to lay the 4.5 ton stone at one of the gates of the Old City, near the ruins of the historic Second Temple.

But the court denied the group permission to lay the stone on the Temple Mount itself, the sacred Jewish site which is also home to the third holiest place in Islam, the al-Aqsa mosque compound.

Israeli police were out in force fearing a potentially bloody showdown over the ceremony, which had triggered fury throughout the Arab world and calls for Palestinians to turn out in force to block the Israeli group.

The Temple Mount Faithful later tried to enter the compound itself but were blocked by police, a decision the group's leader Gershom Salomon said was a cave-in by Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon.

"The police and Ariel Sharon are scared of Arab threats . . . but the day of the building of the temple is drawing near," he shouted through a megaphone. *AFP*

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Gloria loosens up on GATT, says exec

FORT DEL PILAR, Baguio City—President Macapagal-Arroyo has softened her reputed bias for globalization to question "unreasonable" trade barriers that had restricted Filipinos from selling homegrown food to other countries, Agriculture Secretary Leonardo Montemayor said here Saturday.

He said the President had agreed to lobby for a unified position with agriculture ministers of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations in October, to renegotiate their commitments to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). The Philippines will also join a WTO assembly on agriculture in Qatar in November.

Montemayor's revelation was the first indication that Ms Macapagal may soon review the Philippines' 1995 GATT commitment, which she, as a senator, sponsored for ratification in the 9th Congress.

Ms Macapagal had been criticized by the Left for pursuing her GATT commitments days following her July 23 State of the Nation Address (Sona).

But the President's focus on agriculture, "highlighted by her physically taking charge of the Department of Agriculture (DA)," was already a "signal" to critics that she was reinforcing Philippine industries which are vulnerable to globalization, Montemayor said.

"Her taking over the DA was precisely to impress upon everyone that we have to catch up very quickly, because with the World Trade Organization, we will be the losers unless we infuse resources into our agriculture sector," he said.

Montemayor launched an urban agriculture program for soldiers at the Philippine Military Academy here Saturday. He said the project was part of a comprehensive agenda to push corporate agriculture as a fundamental industry.

"After all we are still an agricultural and fisheries economy," he said.

He said: "When (Ms Macapagal) came to Baguio (on July 25), her concern was how (Filipinos) can expand the export of mango to the US, Australia, and Canada. Our mangoes have been accepted in the US already, but they have raised tighter quarantine requirements. So when we sent our first shipment to Australia, *maraming na*-reject (a lot were rejected). *Masyadong* unreasonable *iyong* restrictions (the restrictions were very unreasonable)," he said.

"(The country's) membership in the World Trade Organization (WTO) was supposed to have opened markets, but other countries like Australia want to protect their own fruit industry. So they are applying overly strict sanitation and quarantine requir ments. We call these non-trade barriers. The actually opened trade in terms of lower ta iffs, but they tightened quarantine regulation so trade losses remain at our expense."

The Philippines had already opened bilat eral discussions with Indonesia about a snow balling lobby for new WTO terms, since th disastrous WTO assembly in Seattle in 1999

"When I met with the Indonesian ministe of agriculture (who accompanied ousted Ind nesian President Abdurrahman Wahid to th Philippines this month), we both agreed that i is to the joint benefit of the country and Indonesia to ask for a more scientific and reasonable imposition of sanitary and quarantine agreements under the WTO," Montemayor said.

"*Pati* Thailand *nahirapang mag*-expor *ng ubas nila sa* Australia (Even Thailand ha a hard time exporting grapes to Australia) . . This time, we will be meeting in Indonesi (for) the meeting of Asean ministers of agriculture. I will try to raise this as an issue fo the whole bloc."

Montemayor said the Philippines will tr to explore a trade principle called special an differential treatment, which grants underdeveloped countries a different time frame to open trade doors to more developed states. *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Left split over globalization plans

BAGUIO CITY—Militant leaders have been polarized over a proposed legislative alliance between the party-list group Bayan Muna and the opposition Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino (LDP), after a former Estrada party mate launched an anti-globalization crusade against President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Manny Loste, Bayan Muna coordinator here, said a "tactical, not a political" alliance was likely should the LDP support a resolution of Sen. Rodolfo Biazon seeking a review and overhaul of all Philippine commitments to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

Biazon, who was in Baguio on July 18, said he attacked the GATT's bias for developed countries before the June 7 general assembly of the United Nations. He is president of the Asian-Regional Council of Global Parliamentarians for Habitat.

Carol Almeda, national chair of the militant Alliance of Concerned Teachers, said Biazon supported the GATT ratification, and could not be "trusted" to pursue "progressive militant measures for long."

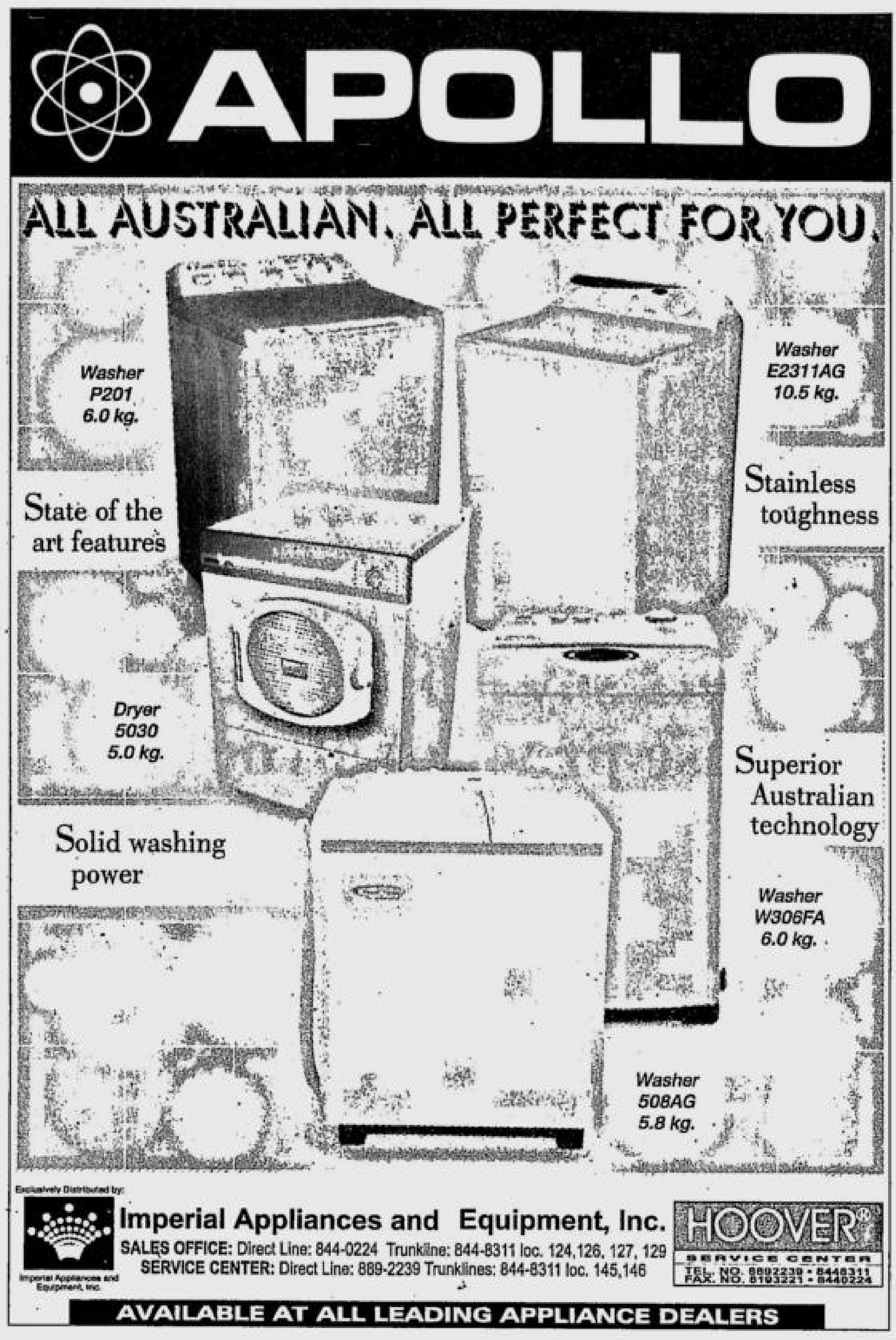
"Remember (in) 1986, every Marcos crony tried to project themselves by mouthing progressive (political) lines, in order to (endear themselves) to the new (Aquino) administration. This is what the former Estrada allies are doing again," Almeda cautioned.

Biazon filed two resolution two weeks ago seeking the activation of the Legislative and Executive Development Council (Ledac) and the National Security Council (NSC).

He said the Ledac, if backed by all opposition leaders, will be key to implementing the legislated GATT safety nets which neither the Ramos administration nor the Estrada administration had been able to carry out.

The safety nets represent P32 billion in irrigation, road network and post-harvest facilities, which should have been installed in 1998 to strengthen the agricultural sector.

The flood of imported agricultural products has begun to kill farms this year and "would really kill (Philippine) agriculture by year 2004 when the GATT commitments are fully implemented," Biazon said. *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*



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The MANILA PILOTS' ASSOCIATES COMPANY had just held its 103rd Founding Anniversary and Induction of Officers for the year 2001-2002, last July 06, 2001. To grace the occasion PCG Commandant, Rear Admiral Reuben S. Lista, conducted the Oathtaking, as photo is shown below;

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Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo also sent her message of felicitation and greetings, as quoted;

Warmest Felicitations to the MANILA PILOTS' ASSOCIATES COMPANY on its 103rd Founding Anniversary and Induction of Officers for the year 2001-2002.

I congratulate the MPAC for its achievements and unwavering commitment to service for over a century. Its participation in nation building way back to the Manila-Acapulco galleon trade and historic events of the 1898 era is laudable. I hope this momentous celebration will promote greater camaraderie and professional excellence among its members.

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I hope this momentous occasion will inspire the MPAC to persevere in the mission to provide the highest standards of skill and care in piloting. Join me in steering the nation towards greater peace, progress and prosperity.

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GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

During the said occasion member-partners also received a Plaque of Membership, which was awarded by the PPA AGM for Operations, Mr. Benjamin B. Cecilio.

Two separate posthumous award was also given to the late Capts. German Niceforo G. Yap and Arturo D. Frondozo, who undoubtedly gave their dedication and loyalty to the advancement of the profession.

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Berroya demands inventory of cars seized by Lacson men

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CAMP OLIVAS, Pampanga—Whatever happened to cars seized during anti-illegal drug operations under former Philippine National Police Chief Panfilo Lacson? Did they end up in the hands of car syndicates?

Four of such cars have been hidden in a police barracks in Pampanga since February last year, according to Senior Supt. Reynaldo Berroya, Central Luzon Police Director and former Chief of the PNP Intelligence Unit.

Convicted drug traffickers Li Ka Kim, William Chu and Rafael Madrazo have each been sentenced to life imprisonment and a P1-million fine.

But the cars, which formed part of the evidence against them, have not been turned over to the courts or were forfeited by the government, Berroya said.

Initial investigation showed that Senior Supt. Francisco Villaroman, former chief of the PNP's Criminal Investigation and Detection Group in Central Luzon and a Lacson appointee here, brought the cars to Pampanga when he assumed the assignment in February this year.

Senior Insp. Julieto Culili of the CIDG said in an affidavit that Villaroman headed the teams that arrested Li and Madrazo in Parañaque City and Chu in Marikina City, court documents obtained by a Camp Olivas investigating team showed.

However, the CIDG does not have any records on the owners of the cars, on the circumstances why and how these were recovered and on why Villaroman took these with him to Pampanga, according to Supt. Allen Bantolo, regional intelligence and investigation division chief.

Culili said seven cars were originally hidden at the provincial mobile group's building in Barangay San Felipe, City of San Fernando. All seven cars were hidden in the building's first floor.

At a still unknown date, Villaroman took three cars. It was not known where these cars are now.

Culili claimed the cars were submitted to the courts as evidence.

"If these were presented as evidence, why should they hide them? If these were being preserved as evidence, why were these not given to the courts prior to the conviction of the drug traffickers? Why were these hidden in Pampanga where Villaroman was assigned? Why did he not just leave them at Narcom?" Berroya asked.

The policy is that sets of evidence are proper documents, kept in custody and submitted when the court begins hearing the case, he said.

Li's car, with plate number WGX 207, was ordered forfeited in favor of the government. It remained in the barracks. A check with the Land Transportation Office showed that the car is registered under one William Sy.

The plate of Chu's Toyota Corolla numbered UHE 156 is registered to another vehicle.

The owner of a Toyota car with plate number TRF 273 and which was found in the possession of Madrazo, is still being established.

The four cars are now secured by troops from the Regional Mobile Group.

In 1999, Villaroman accused former PNP chief Roberto Lastimoso of coddling traffickers, including Madrazo who was arrested in March 1999 and convicted last February.

Berroya on Thursday disclosed to Pampanga reporters the initial results of the weeklong investigation of the case after Villaroman reportedly went on radio clearing himself of any wrongdoing.

Villaroman reportedly accused Berroya of harboring a personal grudge against Lacson, now an opposition senator.

It was also Berroya who asked the Department of Justice early this year to investigate the alleged $500 million secret bank account of Lacson in the United States.

Published reports quoted intelligence reports as saying that Lacson allegedly enriched himself through payoffs from illegal drugs and kidnap-for-ransom activities allegedly done by the Presidential Anti-Crime Commission and the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force. Lacson used to head these groups.

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Extreme Northern Luzon will experience rains and occasional gusty winds. The coastal waters of these areas will be moderate to rough. The rest of Luzon wil have cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. Visayas and Mindanao will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Cloudy	HI 31° Lo 24°
Baguio	Cloudy	HI 25° Lo 16°
Tuguegarao	Rains	HI 31° Lo 21°
Laoag	Rains	HI 31° Lo 21°
Clark Zone	Cloudy	HI 31° Lo 24°
Tagaytay	Cloudy	HI 30° Lo 21°
Legazpi	Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 25°
Calapan	Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 24°
Bacolod	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 24°
Roxas	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 24°
Cebu	Partly Cloudy	HI 31° Lo 24°
Tacloban	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 25°
Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 23°
Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy	HI 31° Lo 24°
Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 24°
Davao	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 24°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/07/30/01

ROUNDUP

Police appeals to PMA

BAGUIO CITY—Police here are asking the Philippine Military Academy to release to their custody a certified academy marksman accused of shooting and wounding a policeman on July 12. The PMA has kept Army Sgt. Amadro Manalastas in its custody since July 13 after he was suspected of shooting PO1 Rogelio Bilibli. Police said Bilibli responded to a complaint by a taxicab driver, who felt threatened by a pistol he saw bulging in Manalastas' shirt. But Manalastas claimed he shot Bilibli in self-defense after the police officer pulled a gun at him. *Vincent Cabreza and Toots Soberano, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

More troops to Tapaz

KALIBO, Aklan—The Philippine Army in Panay reinforced its troops in Tapaz, Capiz after the July 4 clash in Barangay Bagongbaryo of the town that led to the killing of a rebel leader, said Lt. Col. Lysander Suerte, commander of the Army's 12th Infantry Battalion based in Banga, Aklan. Slain on July 4 was Rogelio Canonero, who was said to have led a group of rebels collecting revolutionary taxes from villagers when they clashed with soldiers who acted on reports about the rebels' presence in the area. It was not known if other rebels were wounded in the fight. No casualty was reported on the government side.

Odon Bandiola, PDI Visayas Bureau

5 drug pushers nabbed

COTABATO CITY—Police and Narcotics agents separately arrested five suspected illegal drug pushers in North Cotabato. Police in Kabacan, North Cotabato arrested on Wednesday Dagabanon Samam, a *carinderia* owner, for alleged possession of shabu following a buy-bust operation. Two other suspected drug pushers from Davao City were arrested in Kabacan town on Tuesday. In Kidapawan City, police also arrested suspected shabu pushers, brothers Abdul and Sumara Batingkay, on Friday.

Edwin Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Brothers rob bus

KIDAPAWAN CITY—Three brothers robbed a passenger bus in Makilala, North Cotabato on Tuesday morning. The suspects were identified as brothers Juanito, Romeo and Edison Adolfo, of Mintal in Davao City. Bus conductor Fernando Gesulga said the three boarded the bus in Makilala, Cotabato, about seven kilometers from where they announced a robbery. The suspects, who were later arrested, were armed with two .38 caliber revolvers.

Rosa-May de Guzman, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Soldiers told to venture into camp farming

FORT DEL PILAR, Baguio City—The average Filipino soldier has been told to hang up his Basilan raiding gear, for a trade where he could be an expert—farming.

Agriculture Secretary Leonardo Montemayor launched on Saturday here an urban agriculture and fisheries program for soldiers at the Philippine Military Academy to test its feasibility for military camps.

Brig. Gen. Eduardo Purificacion, PMA assistant superintendent, said the program "taps the childhood expertise of soldiers, who grew up working (in) countryside farms."

"A good 85 percent of our soldiers come from the provinces (and grew up tilling) farms," he said.

Montemayor said the program was dubbed Commodities Assistance to Military Personnel under the Ginintuang Masagana program, "or as you expected, Camp GMA."

Camp GMA explores the prospects of practicing commercial agriculture inside military camps, to guarantee soldiers new livelihood alternatives and food security, he said.

The program is a joint undertaking of the Department of Agriculture and the Department of National Defense.

"This was the instruction of the President . . . during her Feb. 19 visit to PMA grounds. She said it was her administration's efforts to contribute to the further economic support of many men in uniform . . . and she had directed the DA and the DND to come out with technical and economic assistance to the military," Montemayor said.

PMA is asked to pilot urban fishing programs that start off with a secured zone for raising export-quality aquarium fishes.

PMA officials undertook a special training on July 16 in Dagupan City for freshwater harvesting, fish disease treatment and aquarium construction.

Camp GMA already explored agricultural tie-ups with three Army outfits based in the Cordillera from June 8 to July 13, said Dr. Evelyn Aro-Esquejo, DA regional technical director.

Esquejo said most of the soldiers asked for technical and logistical support to raise swine, *tilapia* and chicken, and farm commercial vegetables to trade.

"But there were peculiarities. Soldiers in Abra wanted assistance for mango flower inducement while soldiers in Kalinga wanted help for the commercial production of Mussa Buffalo mushrooms. Soldiers in Abra wanted training on deer meat (processing) and rattan production," she said in a briefing here.

She said the DND-DA memorandum guarantees soldiers support for market accessibility, enhanced credit and farm logistics.

Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Nur says Palace dividing MNLF

COTABATO CITY—A beleaguered Nur Misuari, who still insists he wields power and influence over a divided Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), chided President Macapagal-Arroyo's intelligence network as unreliable and divisive.

Misuari was reacting to an alleged Malacañang "demolition move," to oust him as MNLF chair by endorsing the so-called 15-member MNLF executive council as his replacement.

He challenged the Palace intelligence group to prove their findings that the 15-member MNLF executive council under Dr. Parouk Hussein is stronger and has the "security risk potentials" compared to the Misuari-led MNLF.

"Why not send your best intelligence outfit and conduct your survey," said Misuari, who just received a fresh mandate from Dima Ambil, head of the MNLF Sebangan Kutawato State Revolutionary Committee.

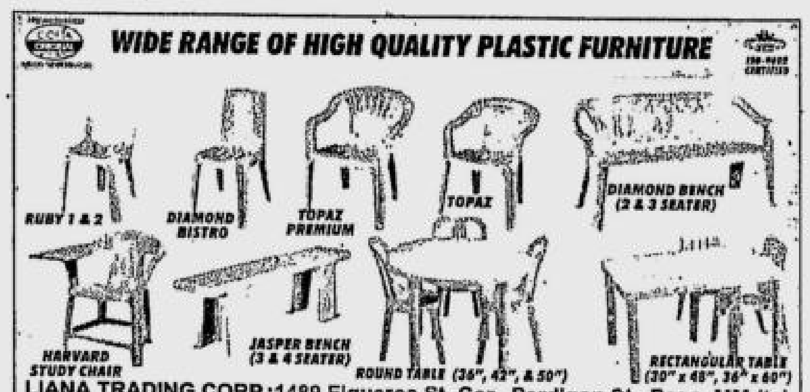
Earlier, Parouk claimed that all MNLF state chairs in Mindanao have pledged their support to the executive council.

Misuari, in his meeting on Thursday with MNLF commanders and committee chairpersons in Davao City, blamed Presidential Adviser Norberto Gonzales for the MNLF mess.

He said it was Gonzales' group in Malacañang that was sowing intrigues in the MNLF.

"To divide us is not the correct method to implement the 1996 peace agreement," Misuari said.

Charlie Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau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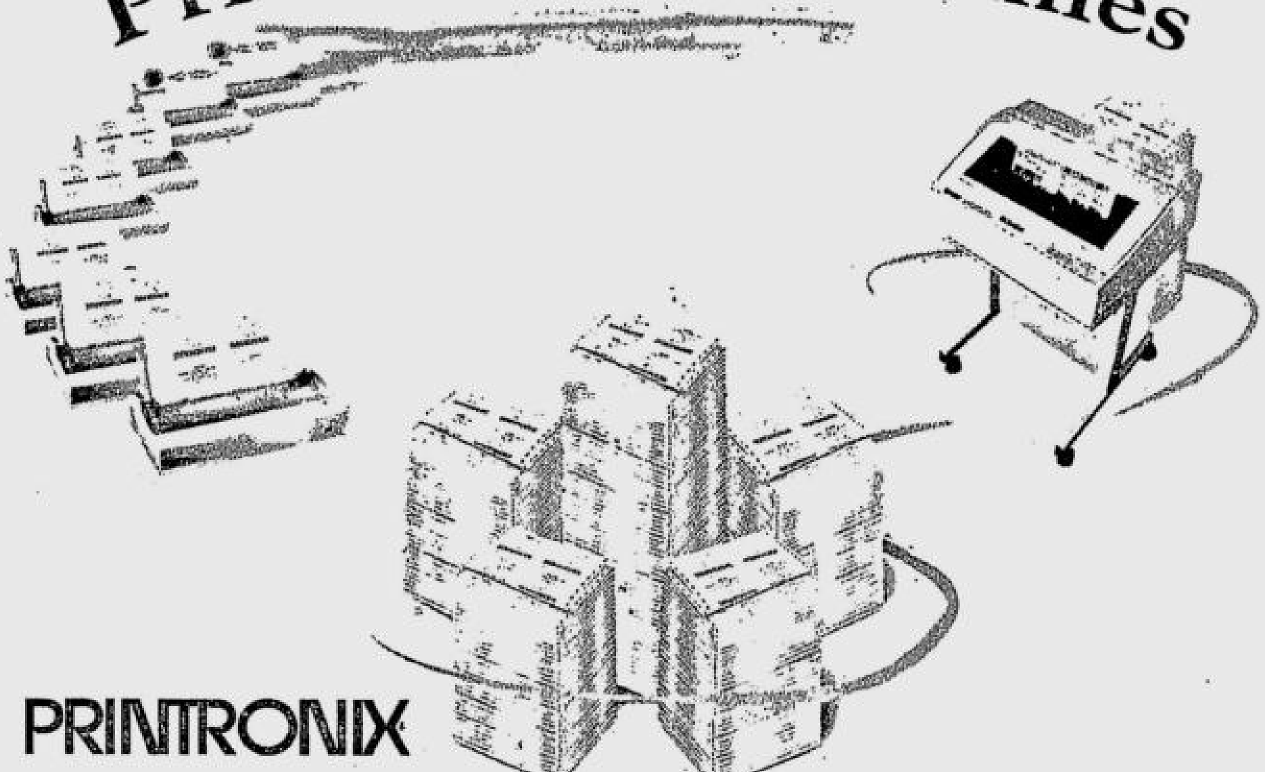
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Asian Spirit
THE PEOPLE'S AIRLINE

Cebu party-list groups plan appeal

By Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—The party-list groups Promdi and the Cocofed-Philippine Coconut Producers Federation Inc. said they would file separate motions for reconsideration before the Commission on Elections to question their disqualification in the May 14 elections.

Party-list Representative-elect Joy Augustus Young of Promdi and official Emerito Calderon of Cocofed said the recommendation of the Comelec to disqualify their groups was unfair to the people who voted for their groups in the last elections.

Young and Calderon, both from Cebu, represented their respective party-list group in the last Congress.

Young would have returned to the House of Representatives because Promdi garnered 2.8 percent of the total votes cast for party-list groups last May 14.

Young said Promdi would also file a separate manifestation before the Supreme Court to show that the group truly represents a marginalized sector.

He said the Comelec should not have likened Promdi to other political groups that joined the party-list elections because it represents a sector of provincial dwellers who espouse the "province first" ideology and is not a national political party like the Lakas-NUCD or the Nationalist People's Coalition.

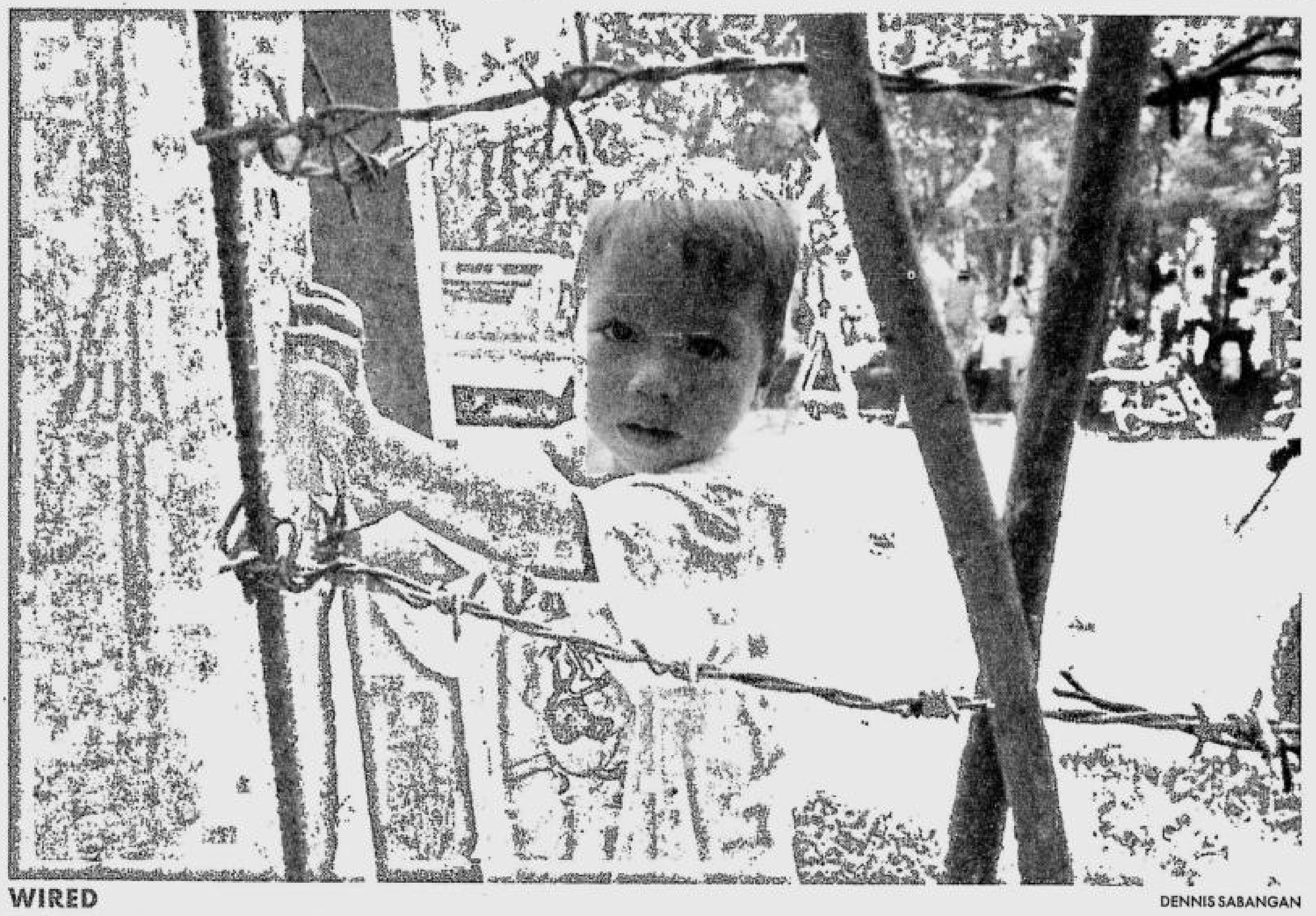
He said they could not understand why Promdi was accredited by the Comelec only to be disqualified when the elections were already over.

Calderon said he was surprised that Cocofed was disqualified as a party-list group since it represents coconut farmers nationwide, "a marginalized and underrepresented sector in our society."

Calderon also said he believed the Cocofed still has a chance to win a seat in Congress if his group would not be included in the list of disqualified party-list organizations.

Cocofed ranked number 15 and garnered 1.8 percent of the votes cast for party-list groups last May 14.

He said that if the votes cast for other party-list groups that were disqualified would no longer be counted, that would bring up the standing of Cocofed, giving the group a "big chance" to acquire the 2 percent needed for the organization to keep its seat in Congress.



WIRED

DENNIS SABANGAN

Barbed wire fences do not exactly make good neighbors or even an environment safe enough for children to grow in, but this boy has no choice. He calls home a camp for militiamen undergoing training in Lamitan, Basilan, a town that has seen the fierceness of fighting between bandits and government troops.

SUBSIDY FOR THE POOR

GMA lied on NFA, says union head

BAGUIO CITY—President Macapagal-Arroyo did not tell the truth about her much-publicized welfare-style subsidy for the country's poor, an official of the National Food Authority employees association said.

Bobby Quinto, president of the NFA employees association here, said Ms Macapagal had taken credit for a new rice subsidy plan designed for the country's 100 poorest families "without telling (Filipinos) that she is simply reducing a government subsidy that helped all of the country's poor."

Quinto was reacting to the NFA's "Tindahan ni Gloria Labandera" program, which offers subsidized rice exclusively to "poor families" accredited by the Department of Social Welfare and Development.

Tindahan, which was originally named the "GMA Store," replaced the "ERAP Rolling Stores" of ousted President Joseph Estrada.

Ms Macapagal, who was social welfare secretary under the Estrada administration, referred to the plan as one of her key platform projects in her State of the Nation Address (Sona) last Monday.

She promised to lift all government controls over rice importation in compliance with the terms of a deregulation plan called the Grains Sector Development Program (GSDP), which was devised by the Estrada Cabinet in December last year.

Accredited families are supplied with a state-controlled passbook each, which allows them to withdraw their rice supplies in the same manner the United States' welfare food stamps allow beneficiaries to obtain their food subsidy, Quinto said.

But Quinto claimed that Ms Macapagal is using the same controversial list prepared by local politicians, who rushed their "poorest families" directory to tap Estrada's pro-poor funds.

"This is really a follow-through for the country's commitment to the GSDP, which guides (the) government (toward the) NFA's eventual abolition. She is continuing a program, which ransoms $175 million in loans held hostage by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) last year. They were supposed to release a first tranche of about $30 million last year because Estrada's administration agreed to abolish NFA," he said during a People's Summit here Monday.

The NFA employees pointed out that the first tranche of the ADB fund was never released.

The GSDP was formulated by former Secretaries Edgardo Angara of agriculture, Edgardo Espiritu of finance, Benjamin Diokno of budget and by the National Economic and Development Authority last year.

Its basic provision requires the diminution of NFA's control over rice importation to open up the country's rice trade.

"We NFA employees want the poor to realize (that the Macapagal rice subsidy is not pro-poor) because we want a clear, untarnished fashion (through which) this government (could) address poverty," Quinto told the Inquirer.

He said Ms Macapagal would likely pursue NFA's abolition, because "her government needs to sell off government agencies and corporations to make money for (a heavily bankrupt) government."

"We are asking the public and the country's poor to support our fight against NFA privatization. The NFA is the only safety net left against global rice trade," Quinto said. ***Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

Ifugao rape, abuse cases alarm gov

By Frank Cimatu
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—Ifugao Gov. Teodoro Baguilat Jr. recalled the reason of an Ifugao pastor who raped his daughters last year. "What he said was, 'It's in the Bible: What you saw, you rape (What you sow, you reap)'," Baguilat said, probably in jest.

But he said the rising number of cases of sexual and reproductive health violations in his province is no laughing matter.

"From January to June this year, there were 14 cases of rape and other forms of physical abuse in Ifugao. This may be small compared to other places but we must recall that these are people, not statistics. We tend to forget that these cases involve people," Baguilat said during a nutrition and population summit here Friday.

He cited a 2000 survey conducted by the Ifugao Provincial Task Force Against Gender Violence, which showed that violations are indeed mounting.

Of 2,718 child and women respondents, 7.65 percent said they were sexually abused. About 17 percent said they were emotionally abused and 22.26 percent said they were victims of physical abuse, including slapping and kicking.

Of those abused emotionally and physically, more than 30 percent said it was their mothers who did it, 19.36 percent said it was their husbands and 13.76 percent said it was their stepfathers.

Home not safe

More than 70 percent of the victims said the incidents occurred at home.

Half of the cases were directed against mothers and 17.35 percent against fathers.

Violations directed against daughters accounted for 13.22 percent of the cases.

Baguilat said the surprising large percentage of sexual and reproductive health violations might be the result of the greater awareness of residents who report their cases to authorities rather than hide them.

"It used to be considered taboo (to report violations). If there was a problem in the family, it was usually kept there. Even the police did not consider them a crime," he said.

He also said men should be involved in reproductive health programs.

"There is low participation of men and sometimes they are ostracized. We have lots of projects targeting the wives but none for the husbands. Even the choices of contraceptives are limited for men," he said.

Midwives

When he was Kiangan mayor, Baguilat said he started a *hilot* (midwife) program for men.

"In our remote villages, the *hilots* were sometimes too far to attend to the pregnant wives so a large percentage of deliveries had been assisted by . . . husbands. But when I started the *hilot* program, there were many husbands who were snickering," he said.

In 1994, another survey among residents of Ifugao, Palawan, South Cotabato and Pangasinan showed that religion might not be the primary factor that influences couples' attitudes toward family planning.

The survey also took in as respondents 474 local leaders, including legislators, national and local government officials, non-government organization officers, media persons, academicians and businessmen.

Most respondents were Catholics while a small percentage belonged to other religious groups.

Pampanga execs seek state of calamity in 51 flooded villages

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO, Pampanga—Due to floods that continue to submerge 51 villages in Pampanga for almost a month now, a board member and two municipal mayors urged provincial officials to place the fourth district of the province under a state of calamity.

Board Member Nestor Tolentino said declaring his district as a calamity area would enable the provincial government here to release funds for relief operations for the flood victims.

The Provincial Disaster Coordinating Council said 105 families in nearby Sto. Tomas town had been evacuated to the San Matias Elementary School due to floods that have reached five feet in some areas.

Emmanuel Guanlao, PDCC executive director, said the flooded villages are located in the towns of Apalit, Minalin, Macabebe and Sto. Tomas and in this capital city.

He said floods in low-lying areas in Pampanga have been aggravated by the almost daily afternoon heavy rains in the province. Tolentino said without a formal declaration of a state of calamity, the provincial government could not extend financial assistance to the submerged towns in the district.

"Our people really need help now. The poor towns of our district could not support themselves. They need the capitol's help," he said.

"Our budget for relief goods and other related expenses is not enough. The number of flooded areas continues to increase. We need the support of the province," said Sto. Tomas Mayor Lucas Arceo.

Minalin Mayor Edgar Flores said the intervention of the provincial and national governments is needed to evacuate and feed the flood victims during the rainy season.

The Sta. Rita portion of the Sto. Tomas-Minalin-San Fernando dike was breached last month, causing floodwater to enter some villages in Sto. Tomas. *Jun Malig, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

ARMM plebiscite pushed

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Rep. Celso Lobregat said the scheduled plebiscite on the proposed expansion of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) on Aug. 14 should not be postponed.

Mohammadnur Ajihil, executive assistant of the Southern Philippines Council for Peace and Development (SPCPD), earlier said ARMM Gov. Nur Misuari, who is also SPCPD chair, wants another postponement of the plebiscite.

But Lobregat said the electoral exercise had been moved thrice and saw no reason why it should be postponed once more.

"The first postponement was in March 1999 which was reset to September 1999, and this was subsequently moved to another date and again was postponed to coincide with the May 2001 elections and again postponed to November," Lobregat said.

Ajihil said the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) which Misuari also chairs, believes that the plebiscite is "ill-timed."

He further said "we will reject the plebiscite if its intention is to destroy rather than preserve the gains of the 1996 peace agreement. Do not blame us for any adverse consequences that may result (from the holding of the plebiscite)."

Lobregat said the Sept. 2, 1996 peace accord calls for a law that would amend RA 6744. He said RA 9054 has incorporated all the provisions of the agreement.

He said the Aug. 14 plebiscite could not be stopped.

He said he and his mother, Mayor Maria Clara Lobregat, will campaign hard so residents of the city will go out and vote "No to ARMM inclusion."

"Look now at the sorry state of the provinces under ARMM, although the national government poured billion of pesos into the region, the leadership (of) Misuari did not achieve anything positive that will convince other cities and provinces to join the ARMM," said Mayor Lobregat. ***Jonathan Ma with a report from Julie Alipala-Inot, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

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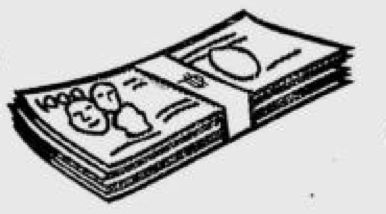

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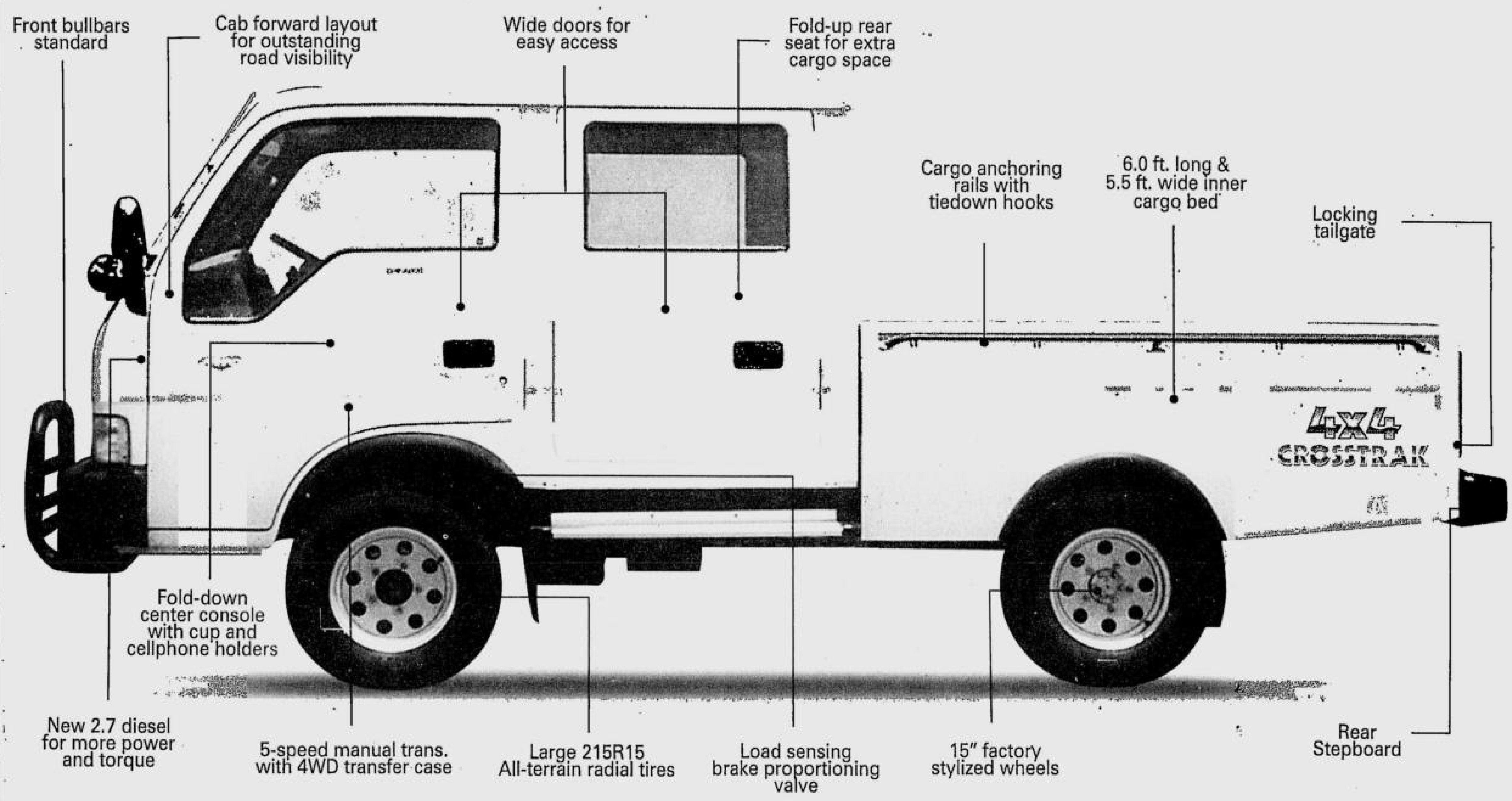
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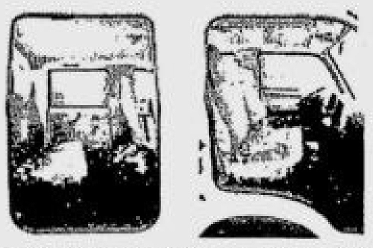

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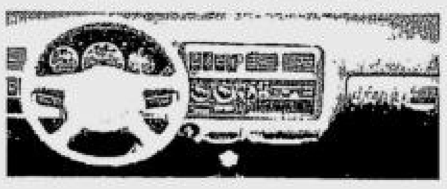

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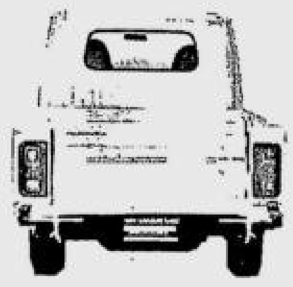

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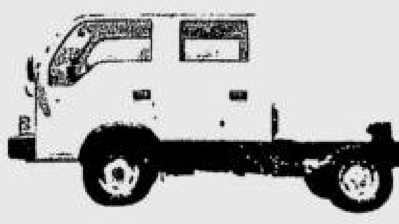

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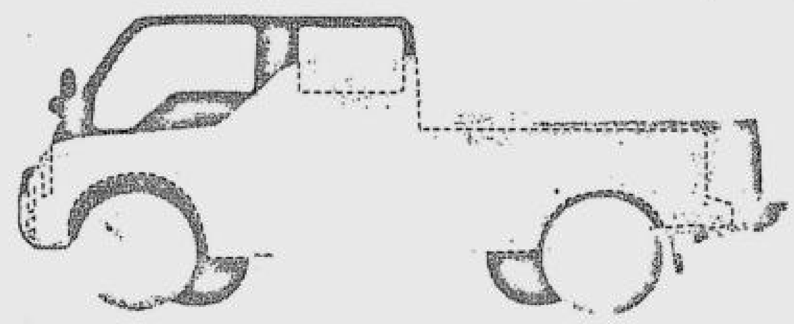

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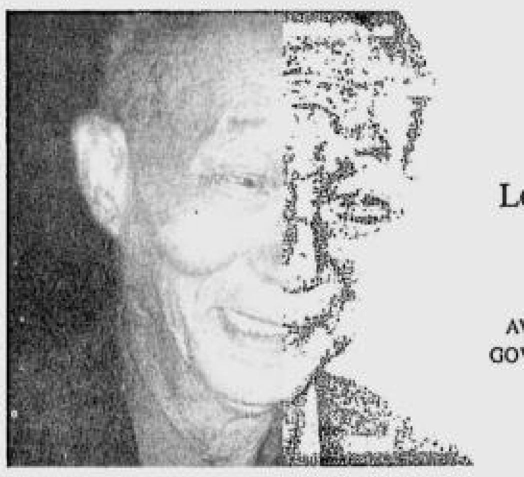


FILLING ASIA'S RICE BOWL

YUAN LONGPING
CHINA

2001
AWARDEE *for*
GOVERNMENT
SERVICE

As a young plant scientist, Yuan Longping recoiled from the horror of China's great famine of the late 1950s and vowed to do something about it. Years of painstaking experimentation led, in 1974, to the world's first successful system for producing high-yielding hybrid rice on a large scale. Today, half of China's riceland is planted to Yuan's hybrids and his technology — continuously improved at his China National Hybrid Rice Research and Development Center — is spreading through Asia. This offers hope that in years ahead an ancient dream of Asia may well come true: There will be rice for everyone. The Foundation recognizes "the unique contribution of his research in rice hybridization to food security in Asia."

RESTORING THE LAND

RAJENDRA SINGH
INDIA

2001
AWARDEE *for*
COMMUNITY
LEADERSHIP

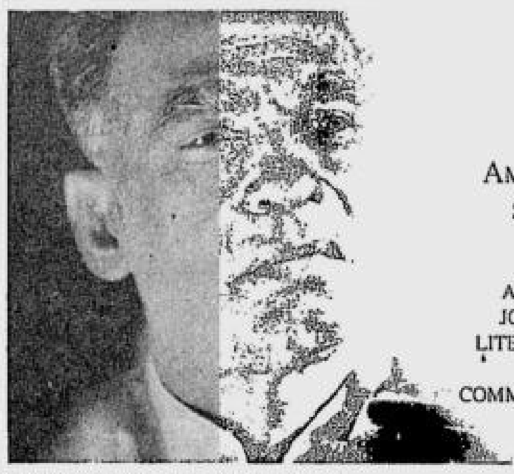
Seeking to do good, Rajendra Singh settled in Alwar, Rajasthan, a district where a degraded environment had rendered the land barren and the people destitute. By enjoining villagers to restore and expand an ancient system of earthen reservoirs — to catch the monsoon rainwaters —and by guiding them to reforest their denuded watershed, Singh has restored vitality and hope to the region and strengthened its villages. In hundreds of Alwar's rural communities today, villagers are astutely managing their own resources. As a result, there are crops in the fields and water in the wells. The Foundation recognizes him for "leading Rajasthani villagers in the steps of their ancestors to rehabilitate their degraded habitat and bring its dormant rivers back to life."

FOR WOMEN AND THE RULE OF LAW

WU QING
CHINA

2001
AWARDEE *for*
PUBLIC
SERVICE

A beloved professor of English, Wu Qing was elected People's Deputy to the People's Congress in her district of Beijing in 1984. Soon afterwards, she formed the Women's Studies Forum, one of China's first nongovernmental organizations. As a Deputy, Wu invoked China's Constitution to insist upon her right to hold officials accountable to the law. She served her constituents so faithfully that they reelected her four times. Meanwhile, through the Forum and other initiatives, she has placed women's issues firmly on China's agenda. The women's movement, Wu stresses, is part of China's democratic movement. The Foundation recognizes her "path-breaking advocacy on behalf of women and the rule of law in the People's Republic of China."



THE SOUNDS OF A NATION'S SOUL

K.W. D. AMARADEVA
SRI LANKA

2001
AWARDEE *for*
JOURNALISM,
LITERATURE *and*
CREATIVE
COMMUNICATION
ARTS

A child prodigy, Amaradeva rose to become Sri Lanka's music master, composing songs for the finest films, ballets, musical dramas, and radio and television programs of his lifetime. His music reflects a unique synthesis of the country's varied heritage, combining the influences of North Indian *ragas*, Sinhalese folk melodies, and Portuguese waltzes and hymns, among many others. Today, his songs and his voice are touchstones of recognition and pleasure for millions of Sri Lankans. As one longtime collaborator and friend has put it, Amaradeva's music "speaks to the soul of the nation." The Foundation recognizes "his life of dazzling creativity in expression of the rich heritage and protean vitality of Sri Lankan music."

GLOBAL STEWARDSHIP

IKUO HIRAYAMA
JAPAN

2001
AWARDEE *for*
PEACE *and*
INTERNATIONAL
UNDERSTANDING

For years, Ikuo Hirayama visited sites along the old Silk Road to make sketches for his paintings. Alarmed by the ruin of many once-brilliant Buddhist shrines and works of art, he became an advocate for cultural preservation. Mobilizing funds and collaborators from Japan and around the world, and committing his own resources, he acted to restore the Dunhuang Caves in China and Cambodia's Angkor Wat, plus other sites in North Korea, Japan, and Afghanistan. Such treasures are the inheritance of the entire world, he says, the entire world should join in caring for them. The Foundation recognizes "his efforts to promote peace and international cooperation by fostering a common bond of stewardship for the world's cultural treasures."

A HAVEN FOR WOMEN

OUNG CHANTHOL
CAMBODIA

2001
AWARDEE *for*
EMERGENT
LEADERSHIP

In Cambodia, sex trafficking and other crimes against women skyrocketed in the 1990s. Confronting this fact as a human rights worker, Oung Chanthol established the Cambodian Women's Crisis Center in 1997. Oung's center operates confidential shelters for women rescued from forced prostitution and abusive husbands and provides legal assistance, psychological counseling, literacy classes, and job training for victims of gender violence. It is documenting hundreds of cases. Meanwhile, thirty-four-year-old Oung is educating Cambodia's public and its officials and police about rape, domestic violence, and trafficking in women. And she is campaigning effectively for women's rights in the national society. The Foundation recognizes her for "rising courageously to confront and eliminate sex trafficking and gender violence in Cambodia."

A VOICE FOR LABOR

DITA INDAH SARI
INDONESIA

2001
AWARDEE *for*
EMERGENT
LEADERSHIP

As an underground labor organizer under the Suharto dictatorship, Dita Indah Sari rallied workers to strike for better wages and working conditions and helped them translate their legitimate grievances into effective political action. She was arrested, beaten, and jailed for more than two years. Today, at twenty-eight, she leads the Indonesian National Front for Labor Struggle (FNPBI), an independent trade union. She espouses reform of Indonesia's labor laws and an end to the intrusion of the military into labor disputes. Without a voice in the political process, she says, workers will be left behind. She is helping them find their voice. The Foundation recognizes her "resolute activism on behalf of working people and their place in Indonesia's evolving democracy."

MAGSAYSAY AWARD

The 2001 Ramon Magsaysay Awards Presentation Ceremonies will be held at 5:00 P.M. on August 31, 2001 at the Main Theater, Cultural Center of the Philippines, Roxas Boulevard, Manila. The public is most welcome.

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Gloria tells Mike: Cut US trip short

(From page A1)

cation. I'm thinner. Tell her not to worry, I'll follow her advice to lose more weight," Arroyo said in Taglish.

Asked if he had any message for his listeners, he asked his critics to set aside politicking.

"I suppose my message is for everyone to unite. Enough of this politicking. Let's help each other . . . Let's shed our crab mentality and work together," Arroyo said.

Malacañang yesterday issued a statement to reiterate Ms Macapagal's belief in her husband's innocence and to say that she welcomes a congressional inquiry into the allegations.

"The President is confident that any investigation will conclude that the First Gentleman absolutely had not been involved in any bribery case," presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said in the written statement.

GMA to file today

Ms Macapagal on Friday asked the Ombudsman to investigate allegations by resigned Palace secretary Veronica "Bing" Rodrigo that Arroyo had accepted a bribe to help a telecommunications company that was seeking to overturn the veto of a franchise bill.

The President said she had conducted an internal investigation for her "own satisfaction," and was prepared to disclose the results to the Ombudsman.

She implied that her probe had cleared Arroyo of any wrongdoing, but added: "It's not for me to say it's not my husband. Let somebody else say it."

She is expected to file an affidavit with the Ombudsman today revealing what she knows about the vetoed franchise bills of sister companies Philippine Communication Clearinghouse Inc. (PCCI) and APC Wireless Interface Network Inc.

'Flimsy soapbox'

Senate Minority Floor Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. on Saturday said the opposition wanted Ms Macapagal to testify or submit an affidavit in the event of a Senate inquiry.

Ms Macapagal will deal with the question of testifying if it is officially raised, according to Tiglao.

But he appealed to the opposition to stop "grandstand(ing) on a flimsy soapbox of baseless allegations."

"She welcomes any congressional inquiry into the allegations. At this time, though, there is no such investigation ongoing, much less a request by any Congressional committee for the President to 'testify,'" Tiglao said, following reports quoting Pimentel.

"Even as the Constitution provides for checks to prevent the Chief Executive from being harassed by members of a co-equal branch of government, the President will deal with such a congressional request when the time comes that such is actually made," Tiglao said.

"She is appealing to the opposition though not to make this issue a political circus," he added.

No, we have no proof

In an interview, he said the President's allies and party mates were not rushing to her defense since "no charges have been filed at all."

"They'll be making a mountain out of a molehill," Tiglao said.

In fact, Senate President Franklin Drilon did speak up yesterday to defend Ms Macapagal, saying opposition senators were just "politicking" and said there was no need to ask the President to submit to Senate questioning.

"That's all politicking. The President is not involved. Do you have any proof she's involved?" he asked the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

Drilon had earlier welcomed the plan of opposition senators to summon Mike Arroyo to shed light on the case.

"But until now they have not filed a resolution" seeking an inquiry, he said. The opposition bloc in the Senate has said it is gathering evidence to file such a resolution.

The pro-administration Senate majority is expected to finalize this week the assignment of chairmanships of congressional committees, including the powerful blue ribbon committee, which will conduct the investigation if it takes place.

John O hits Tito

The controversy took another twist yesterday, as Sen. John Osmeña, a former ally of deposed President Joseph Estrada, said one of his colleagues had "some explaining to do."

In an interview in Cebu City, Osmeña said Sen. Vicente Sotto III, chair of the Senate committee on public services that approved the franchise bills, should explain "if there was a public hearing."

"*Sabit siya* (He's part of this). He has some explaining to do," said Osmeña, who added that he will ask Sotto if the National Telecommunications Commission was represented at any hearings on the bills.

He said that a Senate blue ribbon committee inquiry is "inevitable."

"This is going to be an interesting inquiry," he said.

"In fairness to Mike Arroyo, there is no indication as to how much money was paid, no evidence that payment was made. We have only (the) accusation of Bing Rodrigo against Mike, made in (response to) Mike accusing her," he said.

"Rodrigo will be called to answer questions who made the payment, when, where and how much," said Osmeña in a phone interview.

'No one knew'

According to Osmeña, the *dramatis personae* in the scandal will be revealed once the inquiry is under way.

"Nobody knew anything about the telecom franchise bill in the Senate," he claimed.

He added that Congress treated franchise bills as local measures similar to bills seeking to rename city streets.

"The truth of the matter is local bills and franchises are approved in the Senate on Thursdays, when there's never a quorum," said the senator, who chaired the public services committee from 1987 to 1995.

He said the legislative franchises in question were being reviewed during "the time of Erap (Joseph Estrada), who was pushing this bill. President Macapagal caught up with it."

The bills granting franchises for a telecom clearinghouse and nationwide telecom system were approved in early February, shortly after Estrada's ouster. Ms Macapagal thumbed them down in April, though she recently said she does not recall vetoing them.

Paper trail

"Once (the case is) with the blue ribbon committee, I will subpoena the Senate records on the bill and the Malacañang records. I will look for the footprints of those involved in the process," Osmeña said.

He said a paper trail could possibly be traced from Presidential Liaison for Legislative Affairs Gabriel Claudio and former Executive Secretary Renato de Villa to Presidential Management Staff chief Vicky Garchitorena, a former executive with the Ayala Foundation.

According to Osmeña, "it is obvious here that Ayala people in the Palace . . . opposed this bill as it would have an impact on their business in Globe," the Ayala-owned telecommunications giant.

Philcomsat board member Pacifico Marcelo owns both PCCI and APC Wireless, but there are unproven allegations that he is fronting for Estrada crony Jaime Dichaves.

After she vetoed the franchise bills, the companies asked the President to reconsider her decision, although only Congress can override an executive veto. Ms Macapagal ignored the request, and the firms have since said they respect her decision to keep the vetoes in place.

Both companies have denied bribing anyone.

The President has appealed to the opposition to "suspend judgment" on the case and refrain from exploiting the controversy for partisan considerations. *With a report from AFP*

Target: Cops in 'jueteng' areas

(From page A1)

rior and Local Government had raided several illegal gambling spots in Pampanga.

Lina urged Congress to add "more teeth" to anti-gambling laws.

"While new measures are in place to combat illegal gambling, our campaign must be aided by tougher laws to effectively neutralize gambling syndicates whose operations flourish due to light penalties and measly fines," he said in a statement.

Lina said the DILG was going after gambling lords nationwide despite legal limitations.

He said illegal gambling operators were "making a mockery" of the government's campaign as they were made to pay small fines for their offense.

"With meager fines, gambling lords still find it enormously profitable to continue operations, even setting aside budgets to deal with fines and other penalties in their grand scheme to circumvent the intent of anti-gambling laws."

As part of the campaign to cleanse the ranks of the PNP, chiefs of police and station and precinct commanders will be investigated for any administrative liability once the provincial or district police office conducts separate anti-gambling operations in their areas, according to Lina.

He said provincial or city directors could be relieved if the regional police office had conducted two anti-gambling operations in their areas, or if at least two of their police chiefs had been relieved in connection with their failure to solve illegal gambling.

Even regional directors can be fired should two or more of their provincial or city directors be relieved, or once the national police headquarters conducts two or more anti-gambling operations in their areas. *Christian V. Esguerra*

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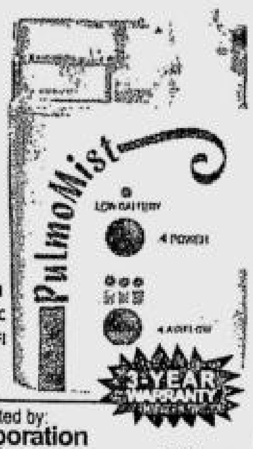

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%	D/P	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly
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25.0%	167,500	45,928	31,781	25,342	18,196	14,668	13,264
30.0%	201,000	42,866	29,662	23,653	16,983	13,690	12,399
35.0%	234,500	39,804	27,543	21,963	15,770	12,712	11,513
40.0%	268,000	36,743	25,425	20,274	14,557	11,735	10,627
45.0%	301,500	33,681	23,306	18,584	13,344	10,757	9,742
50.0%	335,000	30,619	21,187	16,895	12,131	9,779	8,856

MODEL : CANTER FE635

TERM		12	18	24	36	48	60
%	D/P	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly
20.0%	149,000	54,474	37,694	30,057	21,582	17,398	15,756
25.0%	186,250	51,069	35,338	28,179	20,233	16,310	14,771
30.0%	223,500	47,665	32,982	26,300	18,884	15,223	13,786
35.0%	260,750	44,260	30,627	24,422	17,536	14,136	12,802
40.0%	298,000	40,856	28,271	22,543	16,187	13,048	11,817
45.0%	335,250	37,451	25,915	20,665	14,838	11,961	10,832
50.0%	372,500	34,046	23,560	18,786	13,489	10,873	9,847

*All financing plans are subject to bank approval.
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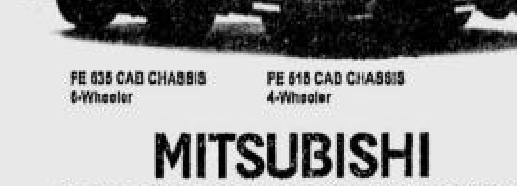

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MITSUBISHI MOTORS

7 chosen Magsaysay awardees

(From page A1)

acknowledge young people, age 40 and below, who are effecting social change in their immediate sphere and beyond."

Other recipients of the Ramon Magsaysay Award are a Chinese local official, a Chinese plant scientist, an Indian water conservationist, a Japanese ambassador of goodwill and a Sri Lankan musician.

Wu Qing, a deputy in the Beijing Municipal People's Congress, won the award for public service for her efforts in the field of women empowerment.

Yuan Longping, director general of the China National Hybrid Rice Research and Development Center, won the award for government service for his work in developing high-yielding hybrid rice to feed millions in his country and in Asia.

The foundation cited Rajendra Singh for community leadership for providing water to the people of Alwar, Rajasthan.

It said Singh "brought life back to villages, replenishing the soil and reviving his people's spirit."

DITA Indah Sari of Indonesia (left) and Oung Chantol of Cambodia: RM 2001 awardees for Emergent Leadership.

The award for peace and international understanding went to Ikuo Hirayama, a Unesco ambassador of goodwill.

The foundation cited his efforts in "mobilizing nations to work together to preserve cultural sites in Asia, healing fissions of history through present-day balms of goodwill in the process."

K.W.D. Amaradeva, a child musical prodigy not so long ago, won the award for journalism, literature and creative communication arts.

According to the foundation, Amaradeva "has wedded the poetry of his native Sinhalese culture to Buddhist chants, North Indian rages and Christian hymns. The result is a dazzling display of melody, culture, and message that breathes life to the Sri Lankan spirit."

Abella said the theme of this year's Ramon Magsaysay Awards "would seem to revolve around the idea of giving life to the new millennium."

She described the awardees "as selfless achievers who provide models for the new generation of Asians in providing food, water and livelihood to people."

Abella said the winners also served as models "in promoting the rule of law and redefining the role of women, and in enriching this new global culture by appreciating the past and continuing with the endless task of cultural unification while maintaining national uniqueness."

This year's awardees will each receive a cash prize of $50,000, a certificate and a medallion bearing a likeness of the late Philippine President Ramon Magsaysay.

The award presentation ceremonies will be held at the Cultural Center of the Philippines on Aug. 31.

Palace bribe inquiry should start at veto

(From page A1)

"We'll have to get to the bottom of things. No ifs, and no buts . . . We must be like Caesar's wife and we must be above suspicion," Ms Macapagal said in her press conference.

If the President sounded so confident that investigations would go into the bottom of things, it was because she had conducted her own investigation. The findings have led her to say that "I know many things already about who are probably involved."

All this will have to be disclosed in the official investigation venues. Based on newspaper reports, indications are that the investigation would open a can of worms.

I have received information detailing squalid details about this case from independent sources, but I have decided not to peddle hearsay and muddle the case, leaving it to the Senate blue ribbon committee or the Ombudsman to receive evidence.

But let me warn that explanations that descendants of "illustrious families" don't get involved in messy deals are at best based on unscientific assumptions.

Let's wait for the facts to speak for themselves in the investigating bodies.

The only thing that's certain—next to the veto—is that many people, even those linked to the previous administration, will have to explain a lot of things. And that does not exclude Mike Arroyo, whom investigators are expected to summon.

Wide open

Starting from the veto, in which the President stands on firm ground because the record speaks for itself, the area of inquiry is wide open.

What is not clearly established is who lobbied for the recall of the veto, who were approached by the lobby as intermediaries, who received bribe money, and how far did the lobby effort go—or at whose desk did it stop.

These are the lines along which the investigation could be pursued.

The opposition had better be sure it has strong evidence to link Mike Arroyo. If it does not, the investigation can backfire and blow up in its face.

The opposition can't use Veronica "Bing" Rodrigo as a reprise of Luis "Chavit" Singson's exposé on deposed President Joseph Estrada's alleged pocketing of "jueteng" money and tobacco excise tax.

Bing Rodrigo may have been Ms Macapagal's correspondence secretary and part of the President's "old girl" network at Assumption College. But their association is nothing like the close relationship between Estrada and Singson over the division of illegal jueteng payoffs.

So, the opposition cannot use Rodrigo as a whistle-blower or the "smoking gun" to embarrass the President or directly link her to corrupt practices.

Opposition motive

One can easily understand why the opposition is training its guns on Mike Arroyo and is making up a corruption issue against the administration.

The reason is obvious. The most important political capital of President Macapagal is her moral ascendancy—on which Estrada was vulnerable because of the disclosure of corruption with his cronies early in his presidency.

Should Ms Macapagal be stripped of this armor, it would relatively be easy to destabilize her administration on other issues, such as economic problems. She will then be no better than Estrada on the moral issue arising from corruption.

It is in the interest of President Macapagal and her husband to send the allegations against Mike Arroyo to the Senate blue ribbon committee and Ombudsman for independent investigation, so Mr. Arroyo could either be damned or cleared.

The opposition, however, should not be complacent that it could escape the investigation unscathed should it decide to play hard ball. Opposition Sen. Edgardo Angara is distancing himself from scandal mongering.

An investigation by the Senate blue ribbon committee is a convenient platform from which to mount a demolition job on the administration.

The Senate majority has agreed to give the chairmanship of the committee to Sen. Joker Arroyo, but Arroyo is offering the job to Senate Minority Floor Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr.

Senator Arroyo is wary of being used as a hit man to destroy the administration on Mike Arroyo's case.

Pimentel may want to do the hatchet job as chair of the blue ribbon committee, but that job is full of risks.

Chink in armor

Mike Arroyo has been a chink in the President's armor. He has a reputation that attracts smear campaigns. As such, he is not only a convenient target of text messages accusing him of influence-peddling or linking him to sleazy deals—which are not substantiated by evidence—in order to destroy the integrity and credibility of the Macapagal administration through guilt by association.

Conversely, he is also a logical target of lobby groups as an intermediary or a "fixer" in seeking deals with the administration.

Thus, the investigations are the best way to clear doubts and suspicions over Mike Arroyo. If, in the investigations, the fallout descends on him, so be it.

That would give the President the moment to define the role of her husband relative to her government and to quarantine him from being an embarrassment. Former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto of Pakistan, a very talented politician, was crippled by corruption charges against her husband.

Can be sacrificed

The presidency is bigger than the domestic concerns of Ms Macapagal and her husband. Mike Arroyo can be sacrificed in the interest of maintaining the credibility of the Macapagal presidency.

Mike Arroyo is a restless person who can't keep a low profile. He has his own charities as one of his official functions.

He would be less of an embarrassment if he acted merely as a prince consort, escorting the President in ceremonial functions, with hands clasped behind his back, like the Duke of Edinburgh to Queen Elizabeth II or the husband of then Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.

But Mike is not content with that ceremonial role. He wants to exude power and that creates problems for the President.

Whatever the outcome of the investigation, Mike Arroyo should drop out of sight, except in ceremonial functions, and read books, or go back to his farm while in isolation.

Text messages from 'dead spot'?

(From page A1)

supposedly coming from him.

Pascua, 24, a grocery employee, was killed on his way home from work at 12:08 p.m. on July 18 by two unidentified men suspected to be members of the Agaw Cell Phone Gang.

The robbers failed to get the victim's Trium cellular phone, but he died while fighting them off.

Since Pascua's death 12 days ago, his relatives and friends have received three text messages allegedly sent from his cell phone, although its SIM (Subscriber Identity Module) card had been removed when it was cleaned of bloodstains.

Ironically, when the victim's widow Beverly was about to go to her mother's house Saturday night to check the messages and see if indeed her husband was trying to communicate from the grave, she nearly lost her own cell phone to snatchers in Quezon City.

Beverly, 22, of 91 Valdez St., Catmon, Malabon, became hysterical as the robbers tried to take her Nokia 3210, her mother Josefina Gonzales told reporters yesterday at the Kamuning police station.

Her cries caught the attention of barangay security officials who responded and arrested three suspects—John Rell Orsia, 18, and a pedicab driver; Ranel M. Centeno, 26, a tricycle driver, and a 17-year-old boy.

Gonzales said the robbers struck at 10 p.m. near Quezon Avenue and Edsa.

"She was already distraught when I told her over the phone about the text messages," Gonzales said. "She tried to fight off the robbers but when she remembered what happened to her husband, she let go of the phone and ran away unharmed," she added.

Gonzales said the barangay officials also recovered her daughter's phone.

Eerie messages

The eerie text messages started to come on the second night of Pascua's wake.

The victim's sister, Eva, received a message asking if she was all right. Eva's cell phone did not register the phone number of the sender, Gonzales said.

The following night, the victim's best friend, Chris, got a message in Filipino saying: "The enemies are already here. I am challenging you."

Gonzales said four unidentified men passed by the wake that night. Nobody knew who they were, she added.

The message registered the number of Pascua's brother, Che-che..But when Chris confronted Che-che, the latter vehemently denied sending the message and broke down in tears, Gonzales said.

"He's a big man but he cried in front of all of us when he heard Chris' story," she added.

At 7:30 a.m. on Saturday, Pascua's sister-in-law, Bernadette, got a text message in Filipino: "Le, forgive me for my sins to you. Help me because the road I am going to take is dark."

Gonzales said the message registered Pascua's Trium number. But she said that was not possible because the phone had no SIM card.

Worse, Bernadette received the message although her phone's message board was full, Gonzales said.

"These messages must have been sent because Victor did not die a peaceful death. He wants justice," she added.

Bloody phone

Pascua's Trium phone also "bled" as his relatives were checking it, according to PO1 Ronald Zamora of the Kamuning police station, who is investigating the case.

Zamora said Beverly had told him that her husband's cell phone bled while they were checking it after they received the eerie text messages.

He said a droplet of "dark blood" oozed out of the phone's charger outlet.

There could be an explanation for the text messages because the SIM card of Pascua's phone had been missing before the burial. The card was placed on Pascua's chest inside the casket.

"Beverly said it just disappeared before her husband was buried," Zamora said.

"I told her not to worry about the messages. Maybe the sender will eventually run out of load," Zamora added, smiling.

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5J - 561	Daily	0700	0810	5J - 562	Daily	0900	1010			
5J - 563	Daily	0900	1010	5J - 564	Daily	1100	1210			
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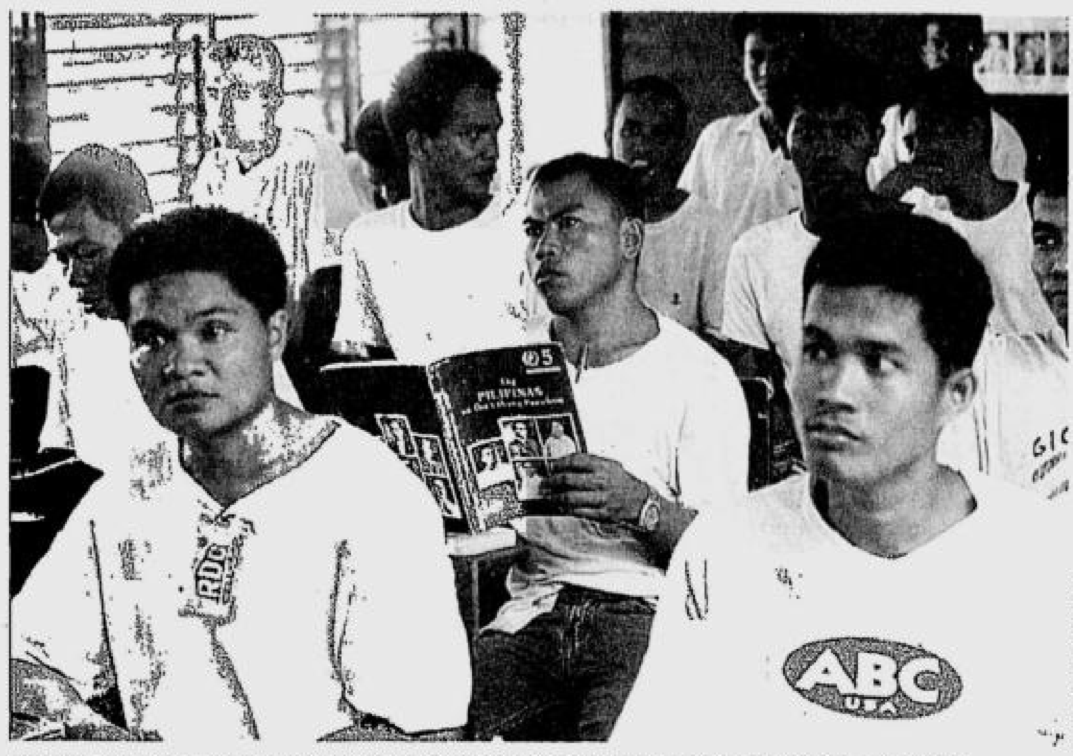

DENNIS SABANGAN

IT'S the teacher who rules over prisoners inside the classroom of the national penitentiary.

Inmates see hope in school behind bars

(From page A1)

"School is the only place where we feel like we are dignified beings," said Marcos, who was also convicted of homicide.

Both Marcos and Florante are candidates for executive clemency.

Elementary and HS

There are 100 inmates enrolled in the elementary program, accredited as an extension of the Itaas Elementary School, while 230 study in the annex of the Muntinlupa National High School.

Maximum-security inmates are barred from the basic education and college courses due to the security risks, but they can avail themselves of nonformal and vocational classes, prison official said.

Supt. Venjo Tesoro, one of the founders of the penitentiary's education program, said justice officials initially thumbed down the idea, fearing that it would spoil the criminals the government was trying to punish.

Back then, only the prisoners coming from more affluent families, like ex-cons Bingbong Crisologo, Nilo Tayag and Butch Belgica, could afford to study while serving time. They availed themselves of distance education programs from expensive universities in Manila, Tesoro said.

But the advent of modern penology, which advocates rehabilitation instead of punishment, changed the system.

And "education is the bedrock of rehabilitation," Tesoro said. "We cannot completely reform a person without educating him so he can live decently in free society."

Stigma

He says the NBP chose to offer a course in entrepreneurship because self-employment is the most viable option for ex-convicts who often bear the stigma of being former criminals long after they had paid for their crimes.

"Besides, with the present economic situation where even graduates of good schools can't get a job, the ex-convicts don't stand a chance," said Tesoro, NBP information officer. "Our goal is to remove them from the fold of crime when they get out of here."

The college diplomas are accredited by the UPHR, and bear no reference to the fact that the degree was earned in prison, a fact which should only be stated when absolutely necessary to give the prisoners the dignity they deserve as successful students, according to officials.

Resurrecion Morales, one of the first officials who volunteered for the education program, said the inmates are so disciplined inside the classroom that it is hard to believe they are convicted robbers, rapists and killers.

They don't fight or threaten instructors, and instead hold their teachers in the highest regard, she said.

"We are the ones who are scared of the teachers. They could fail us, and then where would we be?" Marcos said.

Now chief of the education division of the NBP, Morales says nearly all of the 200 college graduates from the prison have been released.

Some of them visit the NBP, proudly boasting of the bakery or the fish ball stand that they established after college and are using to feed their families today.

Sense of purpose

Others, like Bong, who continue to serve time even after college, are tapped to teach in the elementary or nonformal schools to augment a lack of instructors.

"It feels good to see people who could not read and write finally be able to write letters to their loved ones on their own, and be able to tell their families how they're doing here," Bong said.

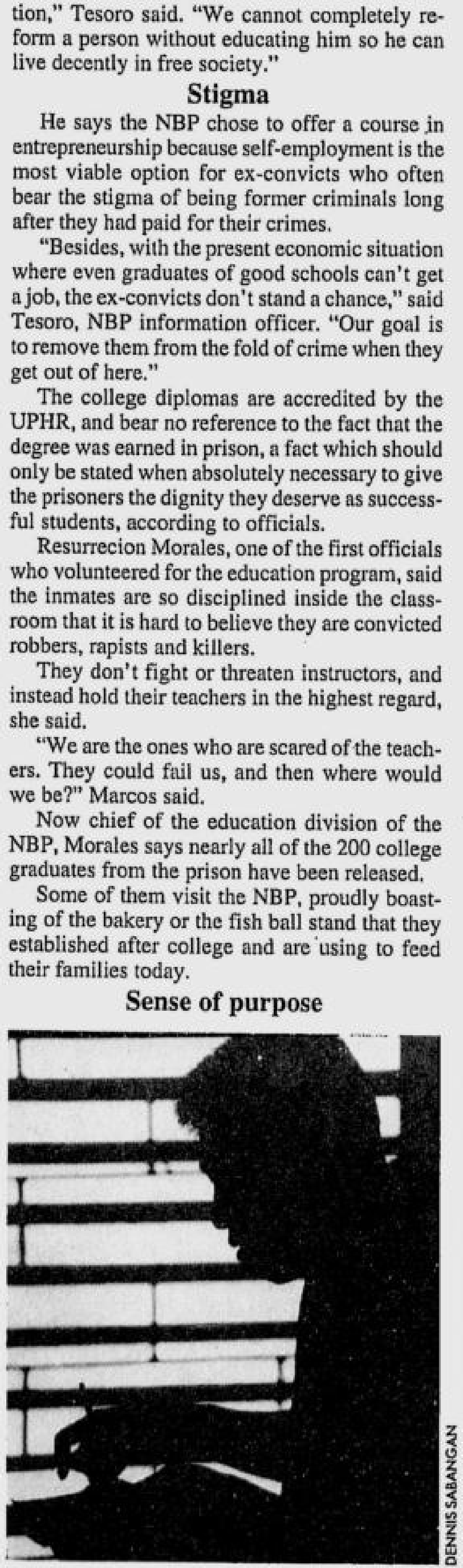
"It gives me a sense of purpose. It gives meaning to my stay here," said Bong, a former death row inmate who was convicted of multiple rape. His sentence was commuted after the death penalty was suspended in 1987.

Being among the most educated in his batch, Bong was tasked with running the library at the Reception and Diagnostic Center of the NBP where newcomers are oriented for three months and undergo psychiatric and assessment tests.

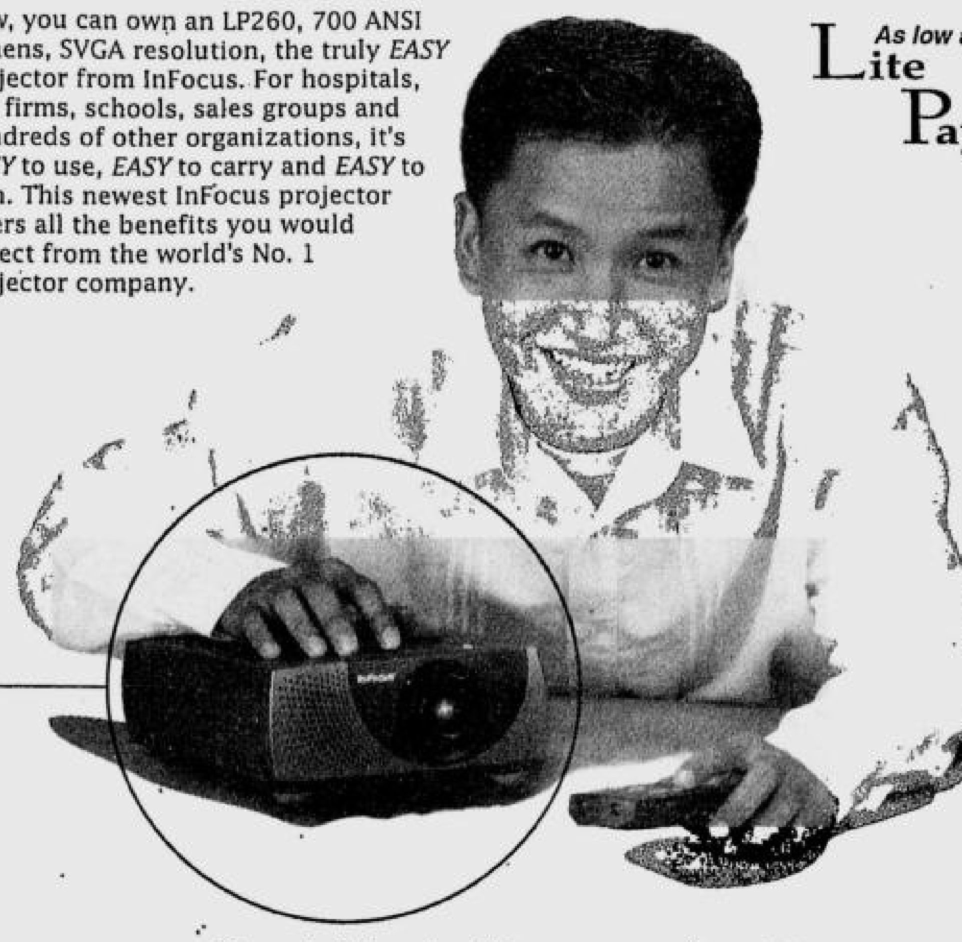
Bong is set to walk free in August next year after serving 24 years for his crime.

"We all made grave mistakes in our lives and we paid dearly for them," he said.

"And if there's one thing I can tell parents today, it's that they should not stop sending their children to school."


DENNIS SABANGAN

A PRISONER student ponders over his situation



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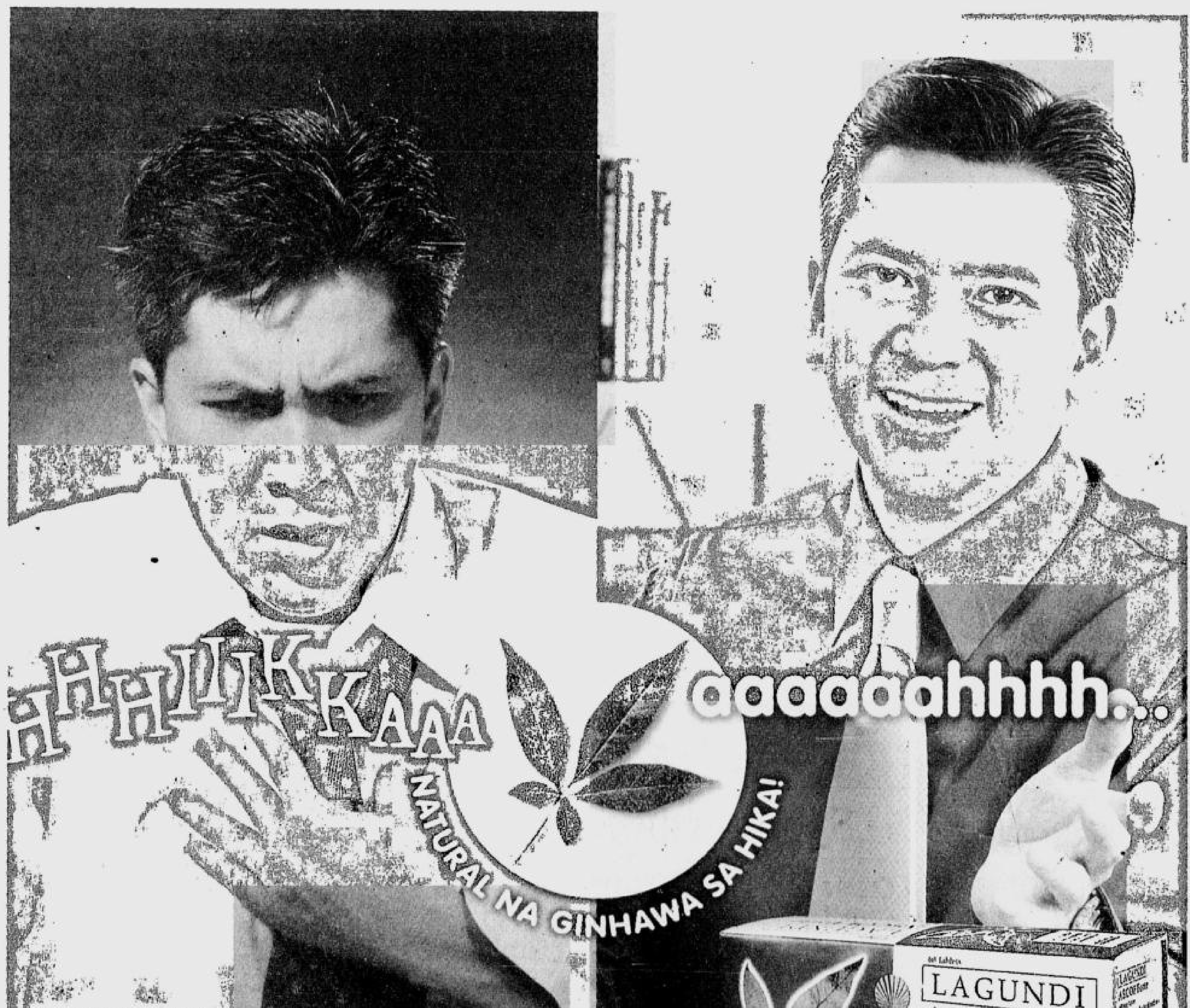

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Hackett shatters Perkins' record

FUKUOKA, Japan—Australia's Grant Hackett set a world record to win the 1,500-meter freestyle in 14 minutes, 34.56 seconds yesterday, slicing 7.10 seconds off the previous mark as he defended the world championship title he won in 1998. The 21-year-old Australian emerged from the shadows of two compatriots when he beat the mark Kieren Perkins set in 1994 and finally took gold at the 9th world championships after taking two silvers behind Ian Thorpe. *AP*

SPORTS
AL S. MENDOZA, Editor ▪ EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA, Assistant Editor

Agassi ends Kuerten's run

LOS ANGELES—Andre Agassi ended Gustavo Kuerten's 15-match winning streak with a 6-7 (3), 6-3, 6-3 semifinal victory Saturday in the Mercedes-Benz Cup. Agassi advanced to Sunday's final against fourth-seeded Pete Sampras, who defeated Xavier Malisse of Belgium 7-6 (4), 6-4. In the Bank of the West Classic, Lindsay Davenport beat Monica Seles, 6-4, 6-2, to enter the final. *AP*

PBA SEMIS

Aces, Hotdogs win

GAMES WEDNESDAY *(Philsports)*
5:15 p.m.—Purefoods vs Red Bull
7:30 p.m.—Alaska vs San Miguel

BY JUNE NAVARRO

ALASKA drew first blood with a thrilling 75-66 rout over San Miguel Beer last night at the start of their PBA Commissioner's Cup best-of-five semifinal showdown at the Araneta Coliseum.

The Beermen crumbled in the homestretch, allowing the Aces to easily escape with the victory.

In the second game, the Purefoods Hotdogs rolled past the Red Bull Thunder, 91-75, to take the opener of their semis series.

Sean Chambers came up with short jumpers together with Don Allado and Rodney Santos as the Aces soared to a 71-55 advantage in the last six minutes.

Everything went the Aces way until Olsen Racela took matters into his own hands to revive the Beermen's bid.

Racela's leadership proved to be a big lift but the Aces countered as Allado's jumper and Kenneth Duremdes' partially blocked layup thwarted the Beermen for good in the final minute.

"We played good defense and executed very well. But more importantly, we didn't allow Ildefonso (Danny) to do his thing," said Alaska coach Tim Cone.

The Aces' suffocating defense on Ildefonso down low coupled by Seigle's anemic show from beyond the arc justified the Beermen's defeat.

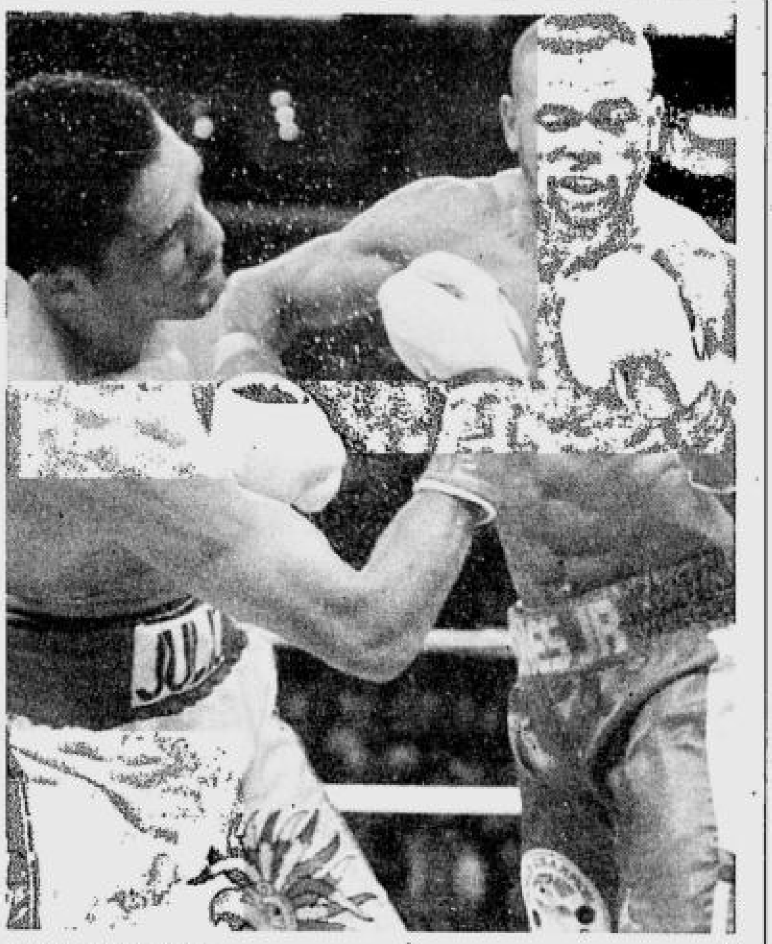
Ildefonso went 5-of-16 from the perimeter, while Seigle made just a single trey in nine attempts.

Scores:

ALASKA 75—Peek 18, Duremdes 18, Chambers 16, Allado 14, Santos 6, Ordonio 3, Wallkvist 0, Arigo 0.

SAN MIGUEL 66—Johnson 17, Seigle 13, Ildefonso 10, Lago 10, Belasco 8, Racela 8, Abuda 0, Pena 0.

Quarters: 23-11, 40-34, 56-51, 75-66.



CLASSY ROY AP

Roy Jones Jr. (right) rocks Mexico's Julio Gonzalez with a right to the head in the eighth round of their WBC/IBF/WBA light heavyweight championship bout Saturday night in Los Angeles. Jones won the bout by unanimous decision to remain as champion.

Chinese ABC champs anew

SHANGHAI—China's Yao Ming and teammates were unrelenting Saturday in defending their Asian Basketball Confederation title against Lebanon, winning, 97-63, to claim their second consecutive and 12th-ever regional title.

Tournament MVP Yao showed why NBA legend Bill Russell believes he has "the ability to change the way the game of basketball is played" with a supreme show of dunking, rebounding, shooting and defending against the Lebanese, who were held to just 10 points in the first quarter while China pocketed 22 points at the Shanghai stadium here.

Earlier, Lee Kyu-Sup scored the winning three-point shot with three seconds left in overtime to give South Korea a third-place finish with a 95-94 win over Syria. *AFP*

Sacred Heart cagers shine

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—Sacred Heart of Jesus Montessori School (SHJMS) nipped Mindanao State University-Iligan Institute of Technology (MSU-IIT), 12-11, recently to capture the fourth leg of the 8th Nike 3 on 3 championship.

MSU-IIT was competing for the first time in the annual event but made a good account of itself in keeping the game close. In the end, SHJMS' experience and preparation prevailed.

"We were evenly matched in size and talent, but our rain-or-shine training paid off," said SHJMS coach Edgardo Dacoco said. SHJMS will represent Cagayan de Oro in the national finals set Aug. 18 at SM Megamall.

MSU-IIT coach Diosdado Villabona said they were happy to contend for the title and cited the tournament as a good exposure for the youth. In the crossover semifinals, SHJMS defeated Oriental General Comprehensive High School (MOGCHS) while MSU-IIT took out Cagayan de Oro Bugo School of Arts and trade (Cobsat).

The event is presented by Nike Inc. the company that gives inspiration and innovation to every athlete of the world and sponsored by Philippine Airlines, Absolute Distilled Drinking Water, Gatorade, New World Renaissance Hotel and Nike Stadium.

De La Salle scrapes past UP; Warriors rip Tigers

BY DENNIS EROA

DEFENDING titlist De La Salle went through the wringer before escaping with an 85-82 win over hard-fighting UP yesterday in the UAAP men's basketball championship at the Loyola Gym.

The Green Archers engaged the Maroons in a virtual shootout and battle of nerves with the final outcome being decided only in the dying seconds.

The victory gave the Archers a piece of the lead with a 3-1 slate, same records of Ateneo, UE and FEU. UP dropped to 1-3 in the company of UST.

Bouyed by Willy Wilson's offensive rebounding, the Archers kept the Maroons at bay even as swingman Ren Ren Ritualo (27 points, four triples) and UP's Michael Bravo (29 points, 18 in the fourth quarter) resembled angry *pistoleros* as they traded shots at will.

Bravo's all-around show provided the spark until the 6-foot-1 hotshot made a hurried layup in the final 24 seconds and La Salle nursing a slim 83-82 lead.

Ritualo had the last laugh as he canned two free throws and then the green-and-white gallery whooped it up when Mark Cardona partially deflected Patrick Madarang's desperation heave from the three-point area.

"We're being tested. We're playing with flashes of brilliance," said coach Franz Pumaren, who is looking for his fourth straight crown.

La Salle took a 41-40 halftime lead and spent the next 20 minutes trying to ward off UP's repeated rallies.

In the other seniors' game, UE used the zone defense in whipping UST, 67-57, for its third straight win after an opening-day setback to NU.

The Red Warriors, whose last title came in 1985, hardly missed the services of head coach Boysie Zamar, who was coaching the Socsargen Marlins in an out-of-town MBA game.

Scores:

UE 67—Tubid 16, Booker 12, Artadi 9, Yap 6, Alminario 5, Hubalde 5, Estrada 4, Masbang 4, Tan 4, Omiping 2, Ronquillo 0, Butel 0.

UST 57—Raterta 14, Villamin 10, Oreta 8, De Guzman 7, Sumalinog 6, Agleron 6, Gelig 6, Naninga 0, Luanzon 0, Hubalde 0, Espiritu 0.

Quarters: 20-8, 38-25, 56-42, 67-57.

LA SALLE 85—Ritualo 27, Wilson 15, Sta. Maria 13, Sharma 8, Cardona 8, Cortez 5, Vainio 3, Ramos 2, bunyi 2, Gavino 2, Arejola 0.

UP 82—Bravo 29, Celo 9, Santos 8, Jomalesa 7, Robin 6, Nunag 6, Bornancin 6, Madarang 6, Cervantes 4, Almeda 1.

Quarters: 21-17, 41-40, 65-59, 85-82.

Ecija clobbers Socsargen

GAMES WEDNESDAY:
3:00 p.m. Cebuana Lhuillier vs Davao (Rizal Memorial College gym, Davao)
5:30 p.m. FedEx Laguna vs LBC Batangas (La Salle Lipa)

LIPA—Jonathan de Guzman took the limelight as Nueva Ecija routed the Bong Alvarez-less Socsargen, 97-75, yesterday in the MBA First Phase at the Sentrum De La Salle here.

De Guzman fired a new career-high of 25 points, highlighted by four triples, as the Patriots improved to 3-9.

LBC Batangas and Andok's San Juan are still playing as of presstime.

De Guzman, who pumped in 22 points in the first half where Nueva Ecija made its breakaway, also grabbed seven rebounds, dished out three assists and had three steals.

Socsargen, which sorely missed the leadership and scoring prowess of the injured Alvarez (foot injury), absorbed its 11th loss in 13 games.

With de Guzman stringing up 14 straight points on a 6-of-6 shooting and the Marlins obviously lacking a leader, the Patriots tore the game apart with a 20-6 opening salvo.

The game was practically over by the second quarter as the Patriots, after successfully breaking the pressing defense thrown at them by the Marlins, widened the gap to 27 at 53-26.

Scores:

NUEVA ECIJA 97—J. de Guzman 25, Aquino 16, Bansil 15, Bautista 10, Punzalan 8, A. de Guzman 6, De Guia 4, Makalintal 4, Manucat 4, Allen 3, Racho 2, Bunyi 0.

SOCSARGEN 75—Bade 13, Salvador 12, Echavez 12, Teng 11, Co 7, Flores 7, Santos 6, Mañalac 4, De Jesus 2, Natividad 1.

Quarters: 27-13, 53-32, 74-31, 97-75.

Aguilar RP bet to Guam 'moto'

FIVE-TIME national motocross champion Glen Aguilar of Caltex will represent the country in the prestigious Miller Smokin Wheels invitational motocross championships scheduled Aug. 4-5 in Guam.

Aguilar, who is also the undisputed leader in the PLDT National Motocross Super Series, will vie for top honors against top motocross riders from Guam and other Asian countries in this annual event hosted by the Guam Racing Federation.

The multi-awarded campaigner from Las Piñas will participate in the pro category of both the supercross and flat track oval races sponsored by Miller Beer, Guam Visitors Bureau and Marriot Hotel Guam.

Aguilar was invited to the competition through the National Motorcycle Sports and Safety Association (Namssa), the country's official representative to the world governing body for the motorcycles the FIM (International Motorcycle Federation) and Asian Motorcycle Union (UAM) and affiliate of the Philippine Olympic Committee (POC).

Accompanying Aguilar in the two-day event are Namssa president Ken Falco and UAM president for motocross commission Macky Carapiet.

Namssa has also been ivnited to send its representative to the Asian Motocross Championships to be held in Japan, Indonesia, Thailand, China, India and Malaysia.

Formula 3 challenge a big success

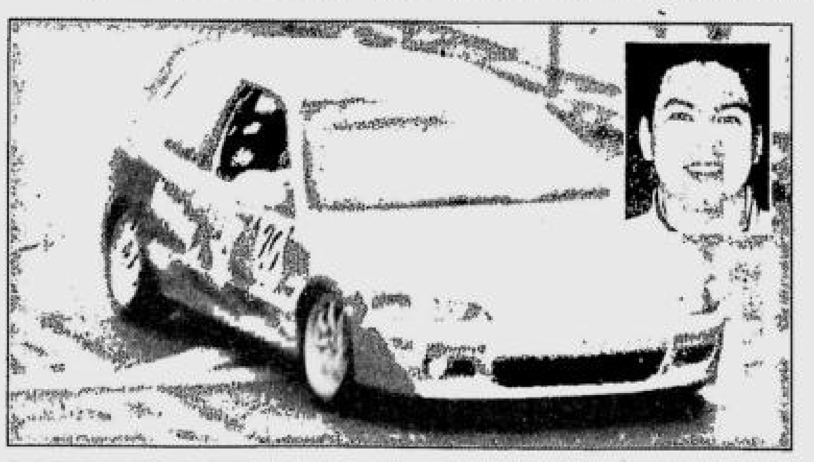
THE INAUGURAL Philippine Asian Formula 3 Challenge is turning out to be a smashing success after only six rounds at the Batangas Racing Circuit and Subic International Raceway.

This was the consensus of most motorsports observers, who have already witnessed the inaugural season of what is now regarded as the premier motorsports event organized by the AF3 Corp. and sponsored by Casino Filipino, CNBC Sports Asia, ABC 5, RX 93.1 and Kart 1 Media Productions.

Kart 1 is the media outfit responsible for the one-hour telecast of the races over CNBC Sports and ABC 5 with the action-packed fifth and sixth rounds to be telecast on July 29.

The impressive showing of Filipino champion Jojo Silverio of Standard Insurance-KACE Electronics-Team Tom's also contributed to the early success of the six-part series which ends in Johor, Malaysia on Nov. 5.

Silverio dominated both the fifth and sixth rounds to break a two-way tie with British Mark Goddard of Castrol-Ghiasports and pull away in the overall standings with a six-round aggregate of 95 points based on the 20-15-12 scoring system.



RALLY WINNER

Caltex Havoline entry Mike Aguilar drives his Honda Civic EG6 en route to sweeping the all-tarmac rallycross held in East Ridge Antipolo, Rizal recently. Aguilar (inset) won classes RP-12, RP-13 and RP-14 as he bested the more powerful 4-wheel drive rally cars. Aguilar set the fastest time of 1.07:23. Kenneth Dominado was second (1.09:05) and Carlo Gutang was third (1.09:35).

Paul captures Enduro diadem

SUBIC—Back-to-back national champion Paul del Rosario outmaneuvered his rivals to capture the historic 1st Roland Aguila Offshore Enduro Memorial Cup at the Waterfront beach here recently.

It was the third title for Del Rosario after he bagged the premiere Expert Runabout Super Stock 1200 and the Stand-up titles in the closed course races.

He grabbed the lead on the third lap and never slowed down from thereon to emerge the Offshore Ironman and champion in the Expert Open class over Carlo Baltao.

The event, sponsored by Petron Corp. and WG&A Super Ferry, turned out to be a tight battle between Del Rosario and last leg's Ironman Perry Yao of the Roland Aguila Team in the early goings.

But Yao suffered an engine problem and took the pits after completing three laps.

From there, Del Rosario stepped on the gas, erected a wide margin over his rivals and completed eight rigorous laps around El Grande Island in the one-hour race organized by the Jet Sports Association of the Philippines (JSAP).

SPORTSWATCH

Cusa fires off Aug. 30

THE COLLEGES and Universities Sports Association breaks from tradition when it kicks off its 7th season on Aug. 30 at the Araneta Coliseum. Aside from the traditional parade of teams and the cultural performances by the host school, Cusa will hold a trade fair, concert and motorcade around the Araneta Center. Metro Manila Colleges has been chosen to host this year's edition which will be participated in by 15 member schools.

"We want the event to be a memorable one not just for us hosts but for all the schools and their students," said Evelyne Dominguez, executive vice president of MMC and president of Cusa. Luz Marie Garcia, managing director and part-owner of Artistes' Visions, which is Cusa's marketing arm, conceptualized the innovative opening gala with partner Maan Varandmal. The busy day begins with a motorcade by the participating teams and sponsors around the Araneta Center at 7 a.m. Cage hostilities commence at 2 p.m. while the concert, also to be held at the Araneta Center's parking lot, begins at 7 p.m. and is expected to end at 2 a.m. the following day.

4 kids post fastest times

FOUR young cyber heroes proved that brain and body power do go together during a series of Nestle Chocolait Cyber Mall tours recently. These extraordinary kids sparkled in three legs of the Chuckie Cyber Mall tour after posting the best times in a series of physical and mental challenges found in the Nestle Chocolait Cyber Spaceship. Issa Matibag became the first cyber hero when she bested several kid challengers at the Ayala Alabang Town Center. Chauncery Ruiz emerged cyber hero No. 2 when he mastered the games of mind and skill at the Sta. Lucia Mall leg. Girl power competition was held at the Robinson's Galleria when Kristian Hernandez and Ana Andrea Arches shared top honors during the third leg of the event. Child star Sabrina Dalrymple graced the awarding of prizes.

SPORTS ON TV

COMPILED BY LORENZO MANGUIAT

GOLF: PGA John Deere Classic - First Round at 8 a.m. (r), Final Round at 10 p.m. on Star Sports

Golfglobe 2001 at 2:30 p.m. (r) on Star Sports

LPGA Giant Eagle Classic, First Round at 2 p.m. (delayed) on ESPN

BILLIARDS: 2001 BCA Open 9-Ball Championship Men's Finals at 3 p.m. (r) on ESPN

MOTOR SPORTS: Max Power at 10 a.m. (r) on Star Sports

Sports in the family

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

MANY Filipino athletes attained success because they have parents with a passion for sports.

For instance, bowling legend Paeng Nepomuceno, winner of four World Cup titles, and Lydia de Vega-Mercado, then Asia's undisputed sprints queen, became household names because their fathers (Angel in the case of Paeng and Tatang in Lydia's) acted as their coaches who took time to discover their talents, and more time to make them champions.

In the olden days, said sports critique and historian Julian Malonso, the Ampons ("Mighty Mite'' Totoy Ampon, a Davis Cup player and sister Desideria) were tops in tennis because their father Felix, who was a Davis Cupper himself, encouraged them to play the sport in their younger years by providing them with the facilities with which to enjoy the game. As a result, the Ampons launched a succession of family triumphs that is unmatched in tennis history.

There were also tennis-playing families in Philippine sports history. Among them were the Joses, Castillejos; Dys, Deyros and Dungos. The late Guillermo Jose Sr., the patriarch of the Jose family built a tennis court in front of their residence on Zamora St. in Pasay City for his children John, Guillermo r. and Danny, who eventually emerged outstanding netters. The elder Jose was also named a member of the tennis committee of the defunct Philippine Amateur Athletic Federation, and much later, president of the Philippine Lawn Tennis Association.

Another moving spirit behind the unprecedented popularity of tennis in the past was the late Dr. Alfredo Dy. A Davis Cupper in his own right. Dy built a tennis court in his residence for his children and other interested players so they will not go astray in the streets. The Deyros and the Dungos (Raymundo Deyro and Eddie and Mike Dungo) likewise left large footprints in the Philippine tennis scene having been Davis Cup players of note.

The Castillejo clan also gave us many proud moments. Dyan Castillejo, who is at present the well-known television host of "Sports Unlimited," was national women's tennis champion before. Dyan's father Lino Castillejo Jr., was a former La Salle basketball and soccer player and coach of the Philippine football team that competed the Tehran Asian Games in 1974. Lino's elder brother Antonio was a former soccer and basketball player of UST and a candidate in the basketball team to the 1948 London Olympic Games. Lino's and Tony's father, Lino Sr., was a director of private schools and saw action in the Far eastern Games as a track men. On the other hand, the maternal grandfather of the Castillejo sisters, Gil Fargas, was the first Filipino Davis Cupper.

Of course, there were other Filipino families involved in sports whose exploits I will write about next time.

Montoya gets pole

HOCKENHEIM, Germany—Juan Pablo Montoya won the pole for the first time in his rookie Formula One season, setting the fastest qualifying mark Saturday for the German Grand Prix and edging BMW-Williams teammate Ralf Schumacher.

The 25-year-old Colombian had been faster than his German teammate twice before in qualifying, but had never clinched the pole before. It was the first front row for Williams since 1997.

The two admit they are not close friends and the start of Sundays' 45-lap race could provide a thrilling battle.

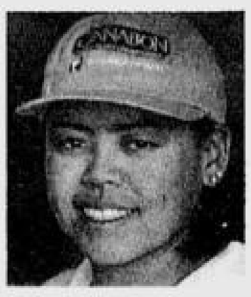
"It's tomorrow that counts," Ralf Schumacher said. *AP*

WOMEN'S SOCCER

Katrina Pestejo of Colegio San Agustin (back to camera) tries to elude Assumption's Bob Villanueva, Anna Esclamado and Tonnette Ruiz during the Lipovitan IRA women's division 4 on 4 soccer qualifier at Don Bosco Makati recently. San Agustin won, 2-1, to advance to the Aug. 25 national finals.

LPGA CLASSIC

Delasin 4 shots behind



DELASIN

VIENNA, Ohio—Even Se Ri Pak sounded bored: another day, another 5-under-par 67.

Pak's duplicate score in Saturday's second round of the Giant Eagle LPGA Classic gave her a two-stroke lead over Tammie Green.

"Same as yesterday," Pak said. "I had some good up-and-downs a few times and made some birdies. I missed some the same as yesterday, too. But I was comfortable out there."

Now the South Korean finds herself on familiar ground—with a chance to make up for one of the few failures in her four-year career.

Defending champion Dorothy Delasin, who beat Pat Hurst in a playoff last year to become the youngest winner of an LPGA event in 25 years, shot her second 69 and led the pack at 6-under 138.

A year ago, Pak shared the Giant Eagle heading into the final round but shot a 40 on the back nine and missed a playoff by four strokes. That marked the only time she hasn't won an LPGA tournament she led going into the final round. Eight times she has held onto the lead.

Pak, who won the 1998 tournament when it was played at Avalon Lakes, is at 10-under 134 and has just one bogey through 36 holes at Squaw Creek.

Earlier in the week most of the field had singled out Pak as the player to beat. In a field weakened by the absence of eight of the top 11 on the money list, Pak was a clear choice with her three wins and almost $1 million in earnings this year. *AP*

2nd round scores:

Se Ri Pak	67-67=134
Tammie Green	69-67=136
Sherri Steinhauer	69-68=137
Marianne Morris	72-66=138
Dorothy Delasin	69-69=138
Becky Iverson	68-70=138
Laurel Kean	68-70=138
Marnie McGuire	67-71=138
Heather Bowie	72-67=139
Dodie Mazzuca	70-69=139
Jane Geddes	69-70=139
Vickie Odegard	69-70=139

Athletic course listing extended

REGISTRATION for the Level I Athletic Training Certification Course has been extended up to Aug. 2.

Open to those interested in the field of scientific sports and fitness, the certification course will cover subjects in athletic training, anatomy, biomechanics, exercise physiology, testing and measurement, strength training, athletic taping, sports first aid, CPR, and many more.

The athletic training certification course will be conducted by Natfa, an elite group of internationally trained sports science, sports medicine and fitness specialists from the United States, Australia and Germany.

The six Saturday-class sessions will start on Aug. 4 until Sept. 8. Correspondence *"Distance Learning"* class is also available for those who live outside Manila.

For inquiries and registration, please call Natfa at 9217224; fax: 9241984.

5-stag derby slated

LAS PIÑAS Cockpit's annual LPC 5-Stag Derby, the first national derby of the 2001 stagfighting season, will be held on Aug. 27 and 29 with a guaranteed prize of P500,000 to the winners.

Entry fee is P11,000. The champions will get three refrigerators as bonuses.

Proceeds of this fund-raising sports affair will go to various community-related projects of Mayor Nene Aguilar like Clean and Green, livelihood project and barangay feeding program.

LPC manager Alex Tobias announced that screening of stags will star on the first week of August. Cockers and breeders may bring their stags at LPC every Sunday, Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday at LPC, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

For appointment on farm-to-farm screening, interested parties may contact 873-1040 or 871-4343 (Daisy).

To qualify, a stag must be from eight to 10 months old, has uncut/untampered spurs no longer than ¾ of an inch, with the seven primary wing feathers still intact and possesses the general appearance of a genuine stag.

"Since this is the first stagfest this year, we are expecting at least 75 entries. Breeders are eager to test the skills and shuffling prowess of their new battlecrosses," Tobias said.

BASEBALL RESULTS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	63	41	.606	—
Boston	59	44	.573	3 1-2
Toronto	48	57	.457	15 1-2
Baltimore	43	61	.414	20
Tampa Bay	34	70	.327	29
Central Division				
Cleveland	60	43	.582	—
Minnesota	60	44	.577	1-2
Chicago	51	51	.500	8 1-2
Detroit	44	58	.431	15 1-2
Kansas City	41	63	.394	19 1-2
West Division				
Seattle	75	29	.721	—
Oakland	55	49	.529	20
Anaheim	53	51	.510	22
Texas	45	58	437	29 1-2

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	59	45	.567	—
Philadelphia	57	47	.548	2
Florida	52	51	.505	6 1-2
New York	48	57	.457	11 1-2
Montreal	45	60	.429	14 1-2
Central Division				
Chicago	60	43	.582	—
Houston	57	47	.548	3 1-2
St. Louis	52	50	.510	7 1-2
Milwaukee	45	57	.441	14 1-2
Cincinnati	40	63	.388	20
Pittsburgh	40	63	.388	20
West Division				
Los Angeles	61	44	.581	—
Arizona	59	45	.567	1 1-2
San Francisco	56	49	.533	5
San Diego	50	54	.481	10 1-2
Colorado	43	61	.414	17 1-2

COMPLETE RESULTS

American League

Cleveland 6, Detroit 4, 1st game;
Detroit 4, Cleveland 2, 2nd game;
N.Y. Yankees 12, Toronto 1;
Seattle 5, Minnesota 1;
Kansas City 9, Oakland 3;
Chicago White Sox 3, Boston 1;
Tampa Bay 7, Texas 3, 10 innings;
Anaheim 6, Baltimore 4

National League

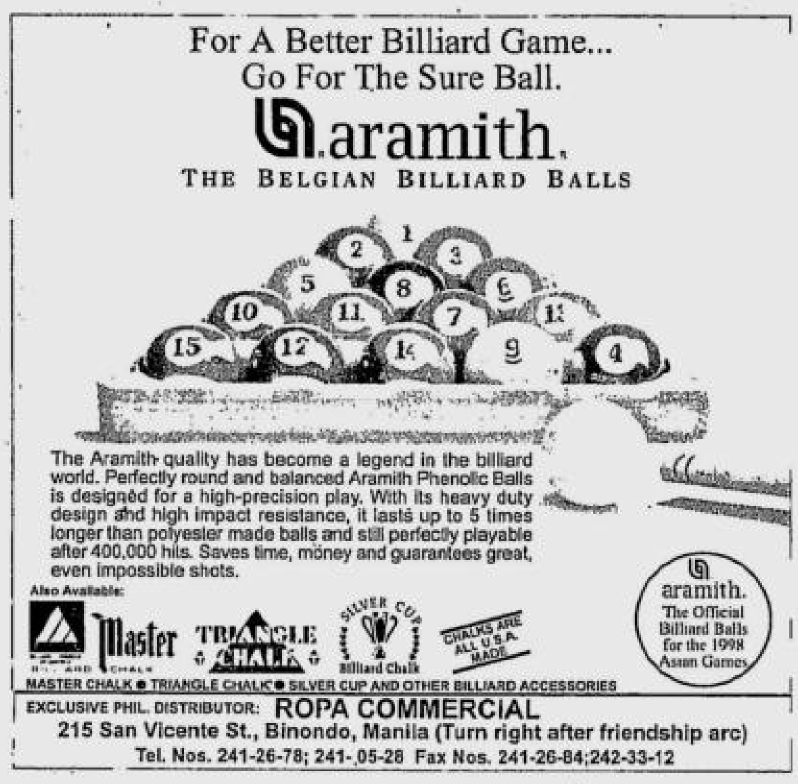
Pittsburgh 9, Houston 8, 1st game;
Houston 12, Pittsburgh 3, 2nd game;
N.Y. Mets 4, Philadelphia 3;
St. Louis 7, Chicago Cubs 4;
Los Angeles 10, Colorado 6;
Atlanta 10, Montreal 5;
Cincinnati 5, Florida 0,
San Diego 6, Milwaukee 2;
San Francisco 11, Arizona 4. *AP*

Armstrong's chief Tour rival concedes

PARIS—It started with a defiant look and ended with a handshake.

Lance Armstrong's almost certain conquest of a third Tour de France title took just five mountain stages. When they ended, his toughest rival was extending his hand, acknowledging defeat with a whole week of racing to go.

"I tried everything to seek out the slightest weakness, but Lance didn't have any," said Jan Ullrich of Germany. "That's why I shook his hand at Luz-Ardiden. For me, the match was over." The contest opened for real in the Alps, where Armstrong arrived trailing the overall race-leader by 22 places. *AP*



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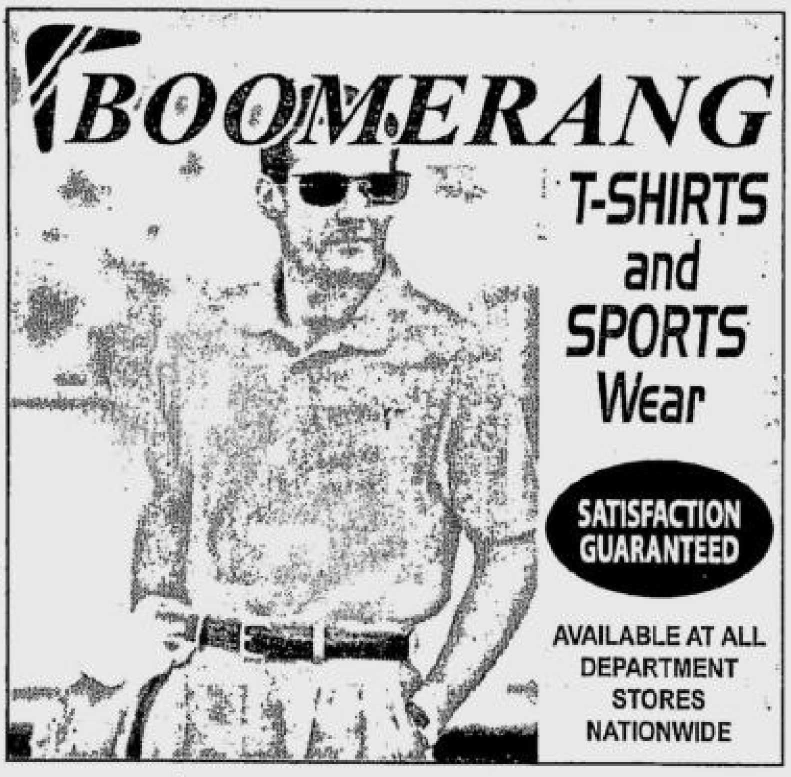

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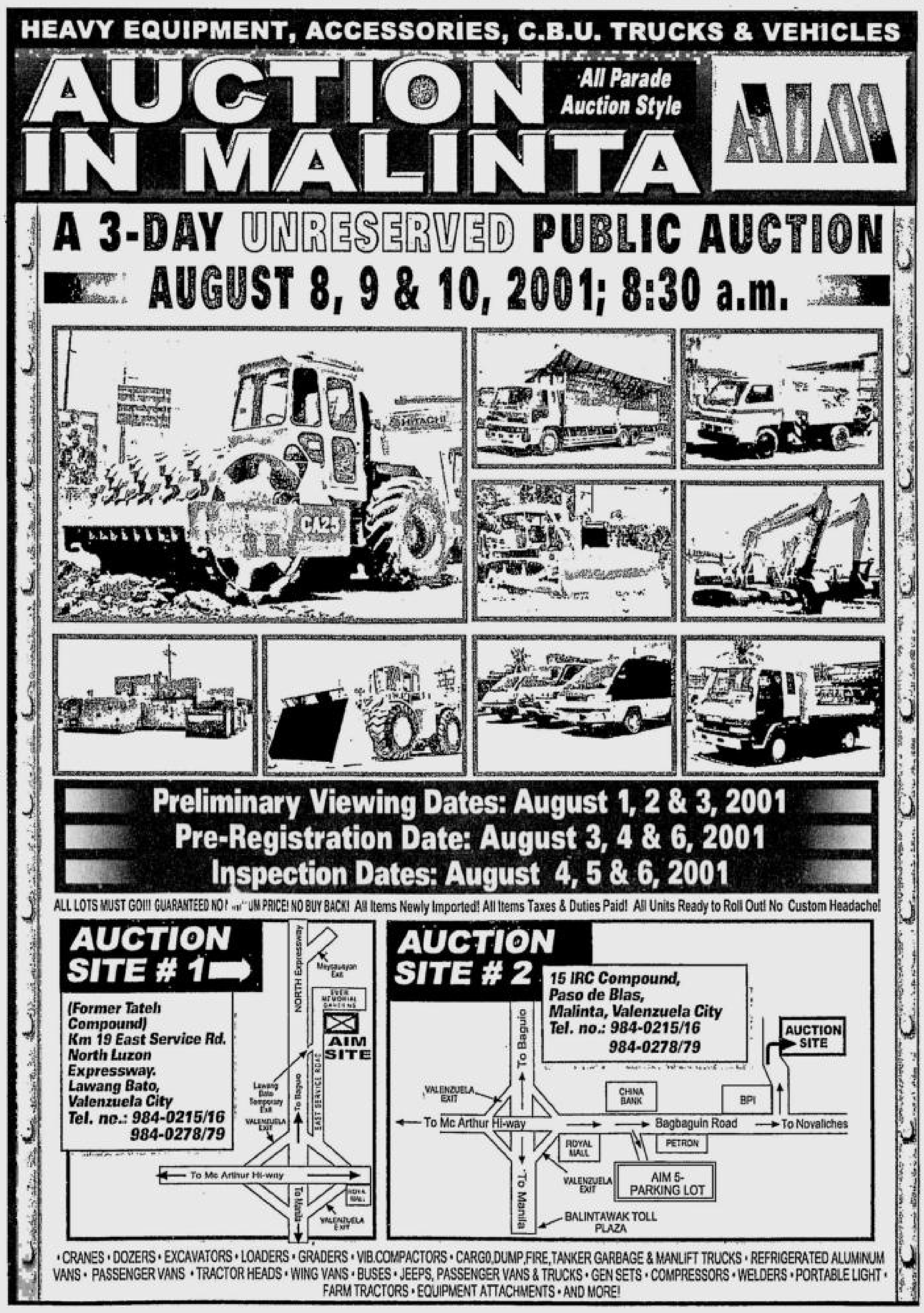

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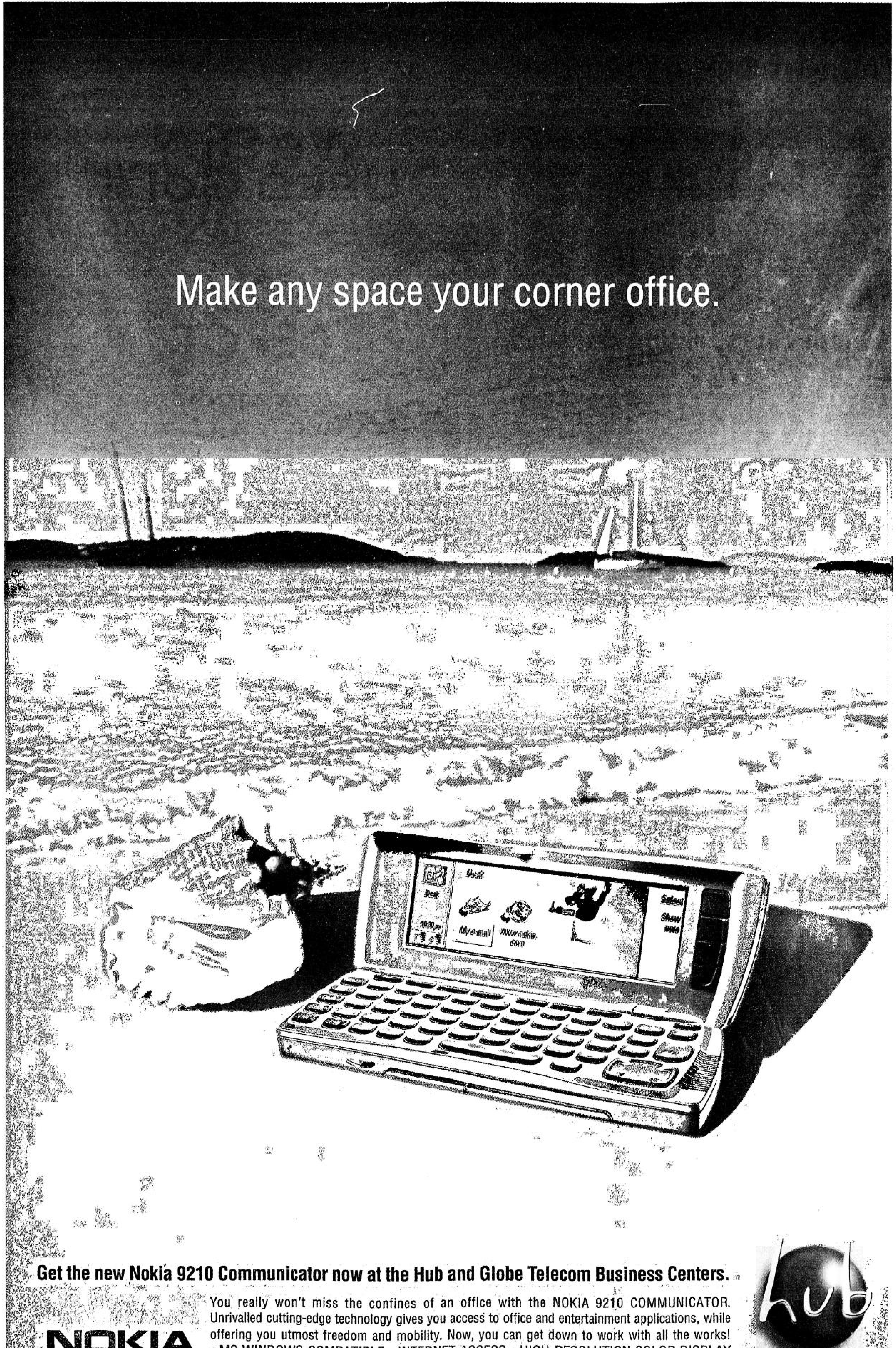

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METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

ROTC should train, not sell—Army chief A26

Bare Eye: SEA Games basketball is kid stuff A26

Missing EPD officer found dead in Rizal

By Agnes E. Donato

THE DECOMPOSING body of an Eastern Police District officer who had been missing since Tuesday was found in a river in Taytay, Rizal on Saturday morning.

The corpse of Insp. German Hepuller, 37, a resident of Crestaville II Subdivision, Barangay San Juan, Taytay, was found by residents in the floodway area near his barangay about 11 a.m. Saturday, police said.

Hepuller had bruises in the face and the body, as well as two stab wounds in the body and severe injuries in the head, police said.

The victim was wearing a white T-shirt with "San Juan Cop" printed on it. But police said his.9mm service pistol was missing.

Hepuller's wife Amelia told police her husband left their house about 12 noon Tuesday to buy milk for their daughter. That was the last time he was seen.

Amelia said that the day after he left, she went to his office to ask his superior if her husband had reported for work.

She found out from Hepuller's supervisor, Supt. Leopoldo Galon of the EPD Directorate for Operations and Planning Division, that her husband was missing.

MISSING/ A26

Slain for nagging roommate who forgot to flush toilet

By Christian V. Esguerra

FOR NAGGING his roommate who forgot to flush the toilet after using it, a man was yesterday stabbed dead in Caloocan City.

Manuel Toledo, 40, died from a stab wound in the chest on the way to a hospital after his roommate, house painter Danny Dianing, 28, stabbed him yesterday morning during a fistfight over flushing their toilet, police said.

Dianing had just used the toilet about 4:30 a.m. yesterday when Toledo nagged him about flushing it, said PO2 Alberto Eustaquio of the Caloocan Police.

The two men shared a room with other men on Honnibia Street in Bisig ng Kabataan, Caloocan, police said.

Witness Oscar Montero Jr. told police he saw Dianing grab a knife and stab Toledo in the chest.

Their other roommates nabbed Dianing after the stabbing, police said.

But Dianing denied he stabbed Toledo. He said his other roommates were framing him for the killing.

Dianing is facing homicide charges before the city prosecutor's office.

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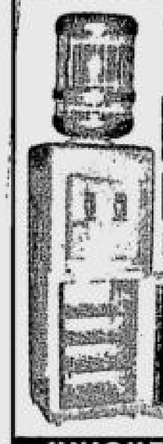

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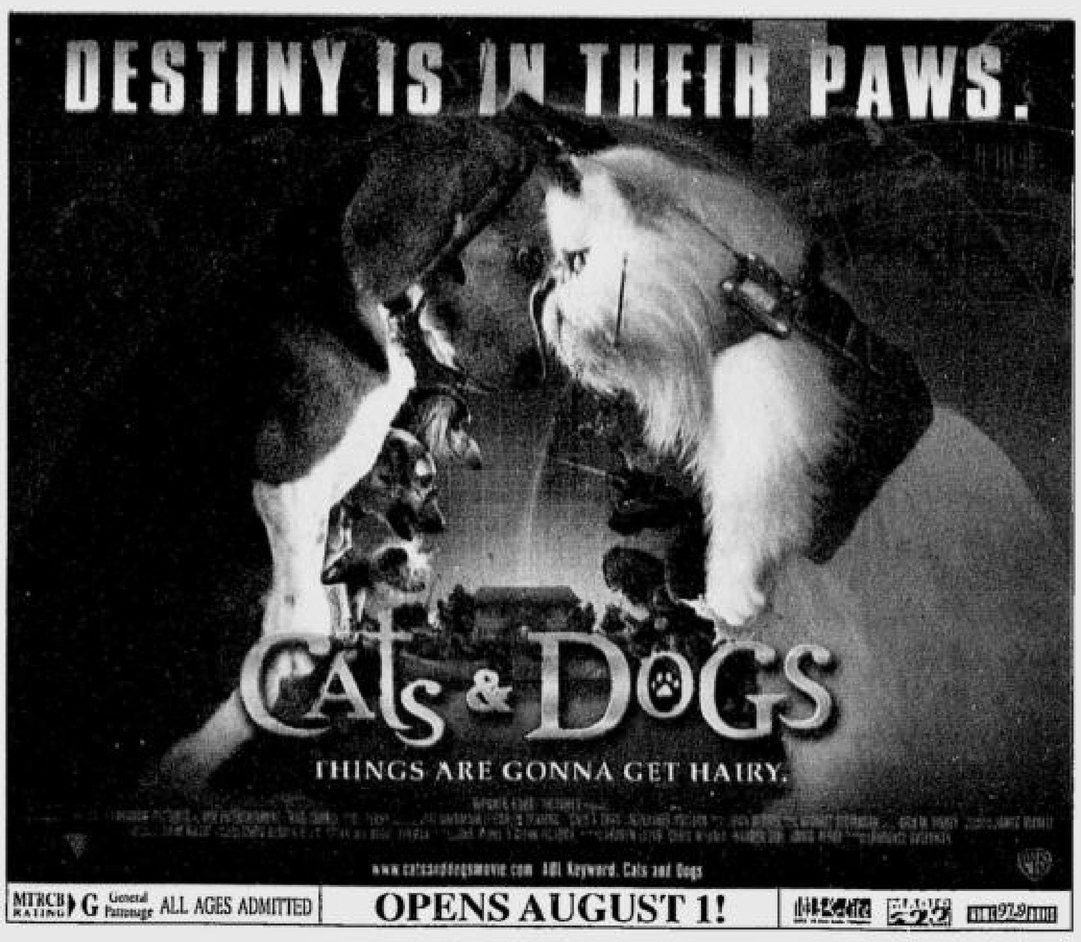
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MSD HEALTH NEWS

"BPH" stands for benign prostatic hyperplasia. The term "hyperplasia" means an increase in size due to an increase in the number of cells. "Benign" refers to the fact that these cells are not cancerous. Therefore, "benign prostatic hyperplasia" simply means that the prostate has grown larger without becoming cancerous. BPH is not a cancerous condition and it does not cause cancer.

BPH is a normal facet of aging that occurs commonly in men over the age of 50. As many as 50% of men in their 60s and 90% of men in their 80s are diagnosed with BPH. No one knows exactly what causes BPH, but it appears to be related to changes in the body's hormonal balance that occur with aging.

Enlarged Prostate

Three elements are associated with BPH: prostatic enlargement (the enlarged prostate), urinary obstruction, and the development of symptoms. Prostatic enlargement due to BPH is a noncancerous condition that can be a natural consequence of aging. As the prostate enlarges, the tube that carries urine that passes through the prostate may become partially or completely pinched off.

Obstruction

Prostate-related obstruction occurs when the passageway between the urinary bladder and the penis is reduced in diameter. This tube-like passageway, called the urethra, can become partially or even completely obstructed when the prostate enlarges due to BPH.

Some men experience bothersome symptoms when the urethra is partially obstructed, while others do not.

Are You Suffering From BPH?

Symptoms

The symptoms of abnormal urination associated with the prostate gland include:
- Increased frequency of urination
- Excessive urination at night
- Urgency
- Straining to urinate
- Hesitancy
- Weak or intermittent stream
- A sensation of incomplete emptying

These symptoms can be caused by an enlargement of the prostate that constricts the urethra, obstructing the flow of urine from the bladder to the penis.

Not all men experience symptoms when the prostate becomes enlarged. It is important to have your prostate examined as part of your regular physical examination. If you experience symptoms, such as difficulty urinating, a need to urinate frequently, or the feeling that your bladder has not emptied after urination, tell your doctor.

Treating BPH

The first step in the treatment of BPH is to tell your doctor about your symptoms. With many options available that successfully treat BPH, there is no need to suffer from the disease. While surgery is often necessary to relieve severe symptoms such as blood in the urine, bladder stones, or a complete inability to urinate, patients with mild to moderate symptoms may benefit most from drug therapy. Depending on the severity of your symptoms, you and your doctor can decide what treatment option is best for you.

Treatment Options

If you or your doctor think you might have BPH, there are a number of treatment options you can discuss together.

1. Watchful Waiting. Sometimes the symptoms of BPH remain at tolerable levels for an indefinite period of time. Your doctor may recommend a period of watchful waiting. If you are comfortable with this approach, your doctor will evaluate your symptoms initially and then recheck them on a regular basis.

This follow-up strategy allows you to see if your symptoms are worsening over time, and it enables your doctor to identify any changes that might indicate the need for further therapy.

While it is rare, some men who choose watchful waiting become unable to urinate before their next evaluation, while others may develop infections or bleeding. Therefore, it is important to stay in close contact with your doctor and report any changes you may experience, even though your next appointment may be a long way off.

2. Drug Therapy. As with other modes of therapy with BPH, there are several choices available if you and your doctor decide drug therapy is the best course of action. Some drugs work to relax the muscles around the urethra and relieve symptoms while others relieve symptoms by gradually reducing the size of the prostate gland, the root cause of the problem. Your doctor can tell you the potential benefits and side effects associated with each of these options. An example of medicine for the treatment of BPH is finasteride. Finasteride is the only approved medication that is indicated to improve all three components of BPH: enlarged prostate gland, obstruction of urinary flow, and urinary symptoms.

3. Non-Surgical Invasive Procedures. If your BPH symptoms are relatively severe, your doctor may recommend a more aggressive approach to treatment. There are several non-surgical invasive procedures that may provide an effective alternative to major surgery. They include prostatic stents, thermotherapy, and transurethral needle ablation (TUNA). Your doctor can explain why a certain procedure may or may not be right for you.

For more information about BPH, consult your doctor.
For other concerns, you may call the MSD Customer Call Center at 878-6338
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ROTC should train, not sell–Army chief

BY PHILIP C. TUBEZA

THE RESERVE Officer Training Corps (ROTC) is not a *sari-sari* store and it should not engage in "business concerns," according to the Army chief, Lt. Gen. Jaime de los Santos.

Yesterday, De los Santos ordered Army commandants to stop making money out of the ROTC program in schools all over the country.

"We should focus on the training of our cadets," he said. "I do not like the ROTC being involved in non-ROTC activities. It should not be involved in business concerns like selling T-shirts, snacks and soft drinks."

He made these statements when he visited the UP Vanguard, the ROTC unit in the University of the Philippines in Diliman, Quezon City.

He said his order is part of an ongoing effort to reform the ROTC while Congress is deciding whether the program should be abolished or not.

"As long as there is no law repealing the ROTC, we still have a mandate to implement it," De los Santos said.

Calls for the program's abolition mounted after University of Santo Tomas engineering student Mark Wilson Chua was brutally murdered last March for exposing alleged anomalies in his school's ROTC program.

De los Santos said the Armed Forces top brass is now very selective about the officers it assigns to head the different ROTC units.

But he said it is having a hard time assigning officers because of the increasing number of cadets and the country's mounting insurgency problem, which keeps the officers' corps of the Armed Forces busy.

He said that in the provinces, quality officers active in the battlefield have also been required to teach ROTC cadets during weekends.

In Metro Manila, some ROTC units will be using the latest technology to make the program more acceptable to cadets.

Starting next week, San Sebastian College cadets would be able to know through text messaging the schedule, type of uniform, and subject to be taught during training, said Capt. Harold Anthony Pascua.

In a special arrangement with Globe, cadets simply have to write "SSCR_ROTC" and send the message to 2333 to get information about their next training day, Pascua added.

Wilson Chua, the father of the murdered UST student, said the Armed Forces needs to weed out more corrupt and abusive officers from its ranks.

He said he is not in favor of abolishing the ROTC but wants it reformed.

"Mark loved the institution," said Chua of his slain son. "He wanted to reform it."

In Baguio City, threats of massive walkouts and protests led by members of militant student groups have forced ROTC officials in the city to enforce an alert status in the ROTC's weekend training sessions since last week.

Lt. Col. Daniel Mamaril, ROTC commanding officer for Baguio and Benguet, said they declared a "red alert status" following receipt of intelligence reports that protests would be held by student groups pushing for the abolition of the ROTC.

ROTC military police cadets and other ROTC cadets guarded the gates leading to the training grounds to bar protesters from disrupting the training.

Yesterday, about 200 cadets from the University of Baguio walked out of their training to dramatize their support for the call to abolish ROTC.

The UB ROTC cadets marched along Magsaysay Road and Bonifacio Road and staged a noise barrage.

Local chapters of student groups League of Filipino Students (LFS), Anakbayan and the National Union of Students of the Philippines (NUSP) led the abolition campaign.

The Abolish! (Network for the Abolition of ROTC) and the Union of Former Cadets (UFC) were also launched in the city to intensify the anti-ROTC campaign.

"The sentiments of the students against the ROTC continue to snowball," said Wilfredo Dizon, chair of Anakbayan UP Baguio and UFC convenor. "The bravery shown by UP cadets (in) the past two training days inspired their counterparts in UB to do the same last Sunday."

Louie Awingan, spokesperson of the Progressive Igorots for Social Action (Pigsa) and convenor of Abolish! in UB, said: "We are taking the call to the streets. We cannot anymore take the scorching heat of the sun and the senseless and cruel treatment we get from our officers. We cannot anymore afford to sacrifice our lives and limbs for this corrupt and worthless institution. *Lalansag kami* (We will fall out)."

Plans for a bigger walkout fizzled out after UPCB cadets, who would have led the citywide walkout, were ordered to report for classroom lectures.

Voltaire Tupaz, NUSP Baguio-Benguet chair, said the cadets were "locked" in classrooms to prevent them from joining the walkout.

"They know we were coming and they were afraid they would not be able to (prevent) their cadets from (leaving)," he said.

Still, Tupaz said they would not give up and would continue their protests against the ROTC.

In Calamba, Laguna, a Catholic Church leader has expressed support for student groups and individuals who are fighting for the abolition of ROTC.

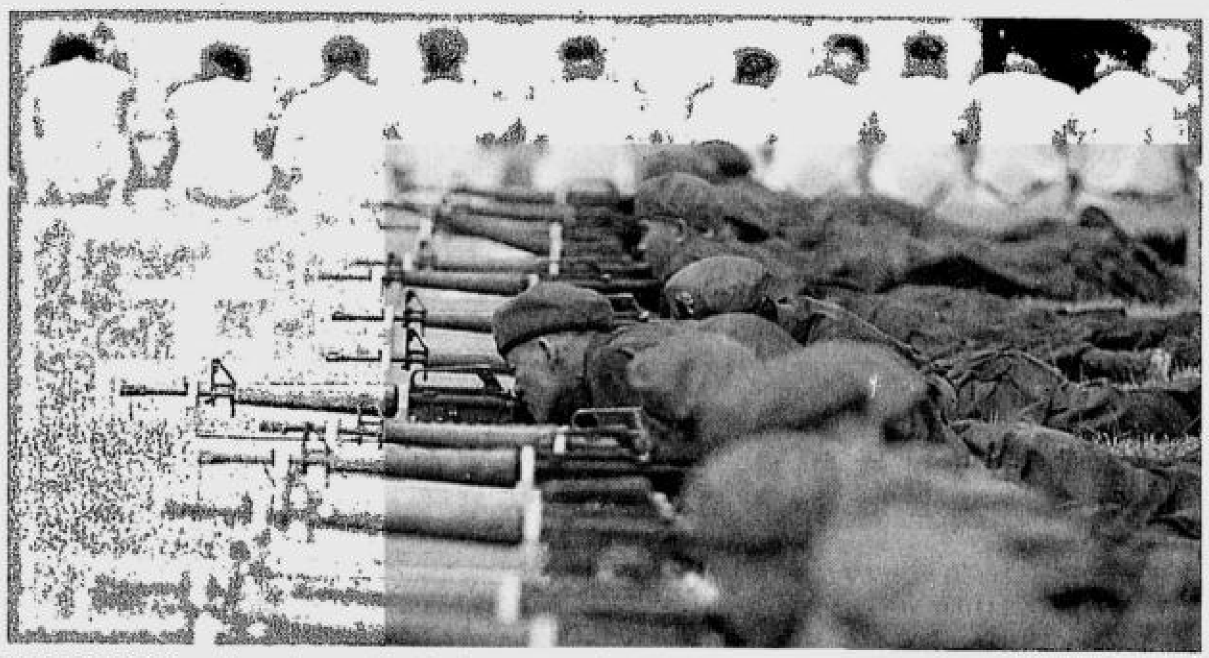
Fr. Philip Atienza, San Pablo Diocesan Social Action director, told the Inquirer that the ROTC has become an instrument of abuse and corruption.

He cited his experience during his college days in Manila where ROTC officers would collect P15 from each cadet as part of attendance requirements.

"How can these people (ROTC officers) assure students of better discipline and training when they themselves are leaders of abuse and corruption?" Atienza said. "We can't give what we don't have."

He admitted that "ROTC in itself is good. But due to the number of the reported cases of anomaly and crime, the good intention is defeated."

"I personally support any move to abolish it (ROTC) with the recommendation for a thorough investigation of the anomalies," he said. ***With reports from Jovelyn Reyes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau; Romulo O. Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***



UNDER FIRE for alleged corruption in the system, the ROTC training program continues to train college students, including these cadets in the University of the Philippines in Diliman, Quezon City.

EDWIN BACASMAS

2 more in rob-slay fall

TWO more suspects in the robbery-slaying of an Indian last May were arrested while allegedly trying to pull off another robbery in Pasig City on Saturday night.

They were identified as Jay Gemillan, 29, of Bolante I, Barangay Pinagbuhatan, Pasig City, and Manuel Malto, 28, of West Bank, Floodway, Cainta, Rizal. Both were believed to be members of the notorious robbery group known as Waray-Waray Gang.

Insp. Rodante Arcigal, chief of the Pasig police follow-up division, said policemen confiscated from the suspects a .357 nickel-plated magnum revolver with six five bullets, a fan knife and a Honda motorcycle (TL-4446), which is believed to have been stolen.

The two suspects were caught around 8 p.m. at the corner of M.H. del Pilar and M. Suarez streets in Palatiw. The two were reportedly trying to hold up tricycle driver Victor Reyes, 30.

Five days ago, police also arrested suspected robbers Arnold Cajas, 32 and Dante Oresa, 24, who allegedly belong to the same group as Gemilian and Malto. *Agnes E. Donato*

Missing EPD officer . . .

(From page A25)

Chief Supt. George Aliño said police suspect that the motive for the killing was "personal."

Aliño noted that Hepuller was the president of the homeowners' association in his subdivision.

Hepuller's colleague PO1 Elpidio Castillo was reported to have had a brush with a neighbor of Hepuller's last month when he accompanied Hepuller home.

Castillo was said to have arrested a man wielding a samurai in Hepuller's neighborhood.

The arrest reportedly angered another man who was later seen on the roof of his house getting ready to hurl stones at the policemen as they passed by.

Aliño has ordered Supt. Antonio Aguilar, EPD criminal investigation chief, and the Pasig police to coordinate with Rizal police to hasten the solution of the killing of Hepuller.

Aliño said he remembered Hepuller as an accomplished police officer.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Monday, July 30, 2001
17th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: **Ex 32:15-24, 30-34**
Gospel: **Mt 13:31-35**

Jesus put another parable before them, "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, that a man took and sowed in his field.

It is smaller than all other seeds, but once it has fully grown, it is bigger than any garden plant; like *a tree, the birds come and rest in its branches."*

He told them another parable, "The kingdom of heaven is like the yeast which a woman took and buried in three measures of flour until the whole mass of dough began to rise."

Jesus taught all this to the crowds by means of parables; he did not say anything to them without using a parable. So what the Prophet had said was fulfilled: *I will speak in parables. I will proclaim things kept secret since the beginning of the world.*

Commentary

The early Christians were confronted with the very practical problem of how to bring Christians from Jewish and Gentile origins together as members of one church. For the Jews, Gentiles were unclean and did not belong to the people of God. Against this background Jesus tells parables about a mustard seed that does not ordinarily grow in the garden, and about yeast that is normally considered to be impure. Jesus explains now that when the mustard seed is sown in the good garden and when the unclean yeast is mixed with the clean flour, the kingdom of God grows to unknown proportions.

Heavenly Father, in your wisdom you brought different kinds of people together in the Church. Teach us how to work together to bring about your kingdom.

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

REMEDIAL LAW (CIVIL PROCEDURE)—General rule that findings of fact not reviewable by appellate court; exceptions—It is a hornbook doctrine that findings of fact of trial courts are entitled to great weight on appeal and should not be disturbed except for strong and valid reasons because the trial court is in a better position to examine the demeanor of the witnesses while testifying. It is not a function of this Court to analyze and weigh evidence by the parties all over again. Our jurisdiction is in principle limited to reviewing errors of law that might have been committed by the Court of Appeals. *A fortiori*, where the factual findings of the trial court are affirmed *in toto* by the Court of Appeals, there is great reason for not disturbing such findings and for regarding them as not reviewable by this Court. There are however exceptions to this well-entrenched rule: (a) when the conclusion is a finding grounded entirely on speculation, surmises or conjectures; (b) when the inference is manifestly absurd, mistaken or impossible; (c) when there is grave abuse of discretion in the appreciation of facts; (d) when the judgment is premised on a misapprehension of facts; (e) when the findings of fact are controlling; and (f) when the Court of Appeals, in making its findings, went beyond the issues of the case and the same is contrary to the admissions of both appellant and appellee. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Bellosillo, Second Division, Uriarte v. People, G.R. No. 137344, January 30, 2001]

DIGEST BY R.B. VERA

SEA Games basketball is kid stuff

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

LOOK what that cheap, childish grappling over the local amateur basketball leadership had wrecked. No less than the usual resolve of the government station to go out and cover the Southeast Asian Games in Malaysia in September.

We can't really blame our friends at NBN (National Broadcasting Network). They had to go with the whims of advertisers who obviously thought the SEA Games would be empty and senseless if the Philippines had no basketball team to carry the national colors in KL.

Frankly speaking, basketball should be on the list of must-miss events of the Pinoy TV buff following the KL Games. Not exactly on top of the dispensable disciplines but, really, SEA Games basketball doesn't deserve the priority it has been enjoying from both fans and advertisers all these years.

* * *

For one, Efren "Bata" Reyes, after another failed trip to the world championships, should again be pure delight going for the gold as chieftain of the RP pool team.

Go Teng Kok, outspoken athletics president, has reportedly vowed to land at least seven gold medals in track and field.

Boxing agency head Manny Lopez was quoted as claiming they would slug it out against Thailand to regain supremacy in the ring.

There's swimming, bowling, gymnastics, archery and a host of other disciplines which, despite the endless politicking among childish sports leaders, should be able to make us stand up and applaud.

And basketball? The black mark it had earned for the Philippines after it was suspended by the Fiba could not be easily obliterated by the conceded gold. That's granting we would be allowed to field a cage squad in KL.

* * *

Sorry, I was told, but going to the SEA Games without a basketball team would be as silly as pushing a crippled machine into a major car race. Or, worse, running a marathon with only one good leg.

That's not true, I retorted, a basketball championship means only one gold and we won't really prove anything big by winning it again. Why? Because SEA Games basketball is undeniably kid stuff as far as the international cage community is concerned.

In fact, I don't remember having gone out of my way to watch a SEA Games cage match for over two decades. I have always felt that, crazy as *Pinoys* are over the game, RP winning over other non-basketball countries like Thailand and Malaysia hardly adds to the national dignity.

* * *

Last time I saw a SEA Games cage match was at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum in 1981. This was the night Itoy Esguerra punched a Malaysian opponent smack on the nose while the late Ferdinand Marcos sat in the presidential box.

There was bedlam, naturally, and the Philippines, as would again be part of a very tired routine, bagged the gold.

The sorrier thing today, of course, is this unfounded belief among the majority that, without basketball, there would be no life for the RP TV contingent in this year's SEA Games.

Everybody was about to throw in the towel for the national TV team in KL until NBN general manager Joey Isabelo flashed the green light for the coverage squad.

This happy info was first relayed by our colleague Ron de los Reyes and was confirmed yesterday by our sports ed here, Al S. Mendoza, who congratulated Mr. Isabelo for his gallant decision.

* * *

For the flag and the fans, Mr. Isabelo was quoted as saying. I join Al and others in saluting you, sir.

Of course, NBN has some reservations, as it will have to consider other crucial areas, mainly funding, before jumping into the pool, so to say.

For one, the SEA Games TV venture would cost at least P20 million.

OK. Mr. Isabelo said he would be very happy if they could break even.

But that noble target could be achieved only if top national sports agencies, like the Philippine Olympic Committee and the Philippine Sports Commission, would lend a hand to the undertaking.

There's this suggestion for the POC to waive the broadcast rights worth P3.5 million. The PSC is also being requested to chip in.

Well, Mr. Isabelo definitely did not want to put these top sports bodies in a spot.

But by flashing the green light for the TV team, the NBN big boss could have also unwittingly put to test the sincerity and nationalism of firms that would agree to reserve commercial slots in the SEA Games coverage only if basketball would be included as main menu.

Isn't it about time we started giving amateur basketball and its quarrelsome leaders the treatment they have long deserved? They have caused enough heartaches and international shame.

To sum up, there will be substance and relevance for the Pinoy sports audience far away from the basketball court. You can bet on it.

Kidnapping suspect nabbed

POLICE arrested a woman for allegedly kidnapping a 2-year-old boy in Malabon.

Veronica Labore, 35, of San Rafael Village, Tondo, Manila, was arrested Saturday after she allegedly abducted Cee Jay Domingo about 4 p.m. that day near his house on Dr. Lascano Street in Tugatog, Malabon, said PO3 Ferdinand Espiritu.

Witnesses called village watchers, who arrested Labore.

Labore refused to talk and pretended to be mentally ill, apparently to make police release her, Espiritu said.

Police said the woman did not kidnap the boy for ransom since his family could not have raised a big amount of money. They believe Labore intended to sell the boy.

Labore was charged with kidnapping because she was able to drag the boy for about 10 meters. *Christian V. Esguerra*

PDP-Laban backs other parties

THE PARTIDO Demokratiko Pilipino-Lakas ng Bayan (PDP-Laban) will fully support other political groups that are committed to help solve national issues and problems, particularly the economic crisis, poverty and syndicated crime.

"We are a committed political party pushing for true economic and social reforms and lasting solutions to the country's problems," the PDP-Laban said in a statement.

The PDP-Laban is headed by founding chair Sen. Aquilino Pimentel and Makati Mayor Jejomar C. Binay as national president.

10 lawmen face contempt raps for failing to arrest 9 cops

BY JEROME ANING

A DEPARTMENT of Justice prosecutor has identified 10 officials and men of the National Bureau of Investigation, the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group and the Western Police District who could be cited for contempt for failing to arrest nine WPD policemen for the 2000 killing of two suspected terrorists.

State Prosecutor Peter Ong said the officials he wanted cited for contempt are Teresita Lampa, head of the NBI warrant division, CIDG-Manila head Supt. Bayani dela Rea and his predecessor Chief Insp. Edgardo Divina, and WPD warrants section chief Senior Insp. Virgilio Dacara.

Judge Rodolfo Ponferrada ordered the DOJ to identify those who failed to arrest the policemen-suspects, whose whereabouts remain unknown up to this day.

One of the policemen suspects, SPO4 Wilson Tibor, is the current president of the Manila's Finest Brotherhood Association Inc., the organization of non-commissioned WPD officers.

Also named in the contempt case were WPD District Police Intelligence Unit head Supt. Richard Albano and his men SPO4 Danilo Gomez, SPO4 Norberto Lopez, SPO1 Charlie Co San, SPO1 Jesus Sebeldia, SPO1 Danilo Monte.

The WPD-DPIU was reportedly furnished copies of the warrants issued by Judge Ponferrada five months ago but, like the NBI and CIDG, it failed to serve them.

Ong filed the motion to cite the lawmen for contempt on July 4. Ponferrada later ordered him to specify those he wants cited for contempt.

NBI investigation later showed that the two men who were killed were applicants for overseas jobs. The lawmen insisted the two were terrorists who tried to fight back to evade arrest.

The DOJ prosecutor cited the rules of court in seeking contempt charges against the chiefs of the warrant sections of the CIDG, the WPD and the NBI for not furnishing the court a report on how they served the arrest warrants.

"More than four months had lapsed, but the heads of the aforesaid offices failed to comply with the mandate of the above rule, thereby frustrating the ends of justice," said Ong in his petition.

Aside from SPO4 Tibor, charged with the killing of the two men were SPO4 Remigio Estacio, SPO3 Edgardo Abaga, SPO2 Julian Siriban, SPO2 Eduardo Ramos, PO3 Randy Dimayuga, PO3 Ronald Hernandez, PO2 Philip Malindog, and PO1 Ignacio Garlan.

No VIP treatment for inmates–BJMP

BUREAU of Jail Management and Penology officer in charge Chief Supt. Arturo W. Alit has reminded jail wardens of the bureau policy of not giving special treatment to any inmates in BJMP jails.

In a recent meeting, Alit told jail wardens in the National Capital Region to be fair and just in dealing with inmates and to not give special treatment to anyone.

He said jail officers who violate this policy would immediately be relieved of his duties and charged administratively.

The meeting with jail wardens was his second since his appointment as OIC of the bureau on March 29. He called the second meeting to remind them of the standing policies in dealing with inmates and to announce new ones that would streamline jail operation.

Alit told the jail wardens to be more transparent in running their jails so they could earn the full support and cooperation of the community.

He cited, among other things, the way jail wardens handle media whenever untoward incidents occur. He said jail wardens should take the initiative of calling media and help in getting the facts rights.

He said jail wardens should get used to dealing with media. Under the newly created community relations service, representatives from media, people's and non-government organizations will be given the authority to monitor conditions in BJMP jails and report these to the BJMP leadership.

Alit also cited an agreement to effect savings in power consumption by 10 percent every quarter. He said this was discussed with the 17 assistant regional directors of the bureau in a recent consultative meeting at the BJMP central office.

He said the reduction on power consumption would impact on the operating expenses of jails. Any savings could be used in the improvement of jail facilities and services, he said.

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1	BAGANSYA
2	JURASSIC PARK 3
3	NAG-AAPOY NA LANGIT

starmall Movies
(Shaw Blvd.) tel 724.4986

1	COMMAND & CONQUER
2	BAGANSYA
3	PANINDA
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	JURASSIC PARK 3
5	NAG-AAPOY NA LANGIT

Metropolis
(Alabang) tel 543.4001

1	RESERVE
2	RESERVE
3	MAHAL KITA . . .
4	BAGANSYA
5	AMORSEKO
6	JURASSIC 3
7	PANGAKO IKAW LANG
8	NAGAAPOY NA LANGIT

LOUIE'S CINEMA THX
(Makati City) tel 751.2010/892.3349

1	JURASSIC PARK 3

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	PANGAKO IKAW LANG
2	DUNGEON & DRAGONS

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC.
tel 930.9515

1	UNANG TIBOK
2	JURASSIC PARK 3
3	NAG-AAPOY...

Spring
(Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864

1	NAG-AAPOY...
A	TEASER

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1	BAGANSYA
2	TEASER
3	JURASSIC PARK 3
4	

GOTESCO CINEMA

City
(Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (DOLBY)	JURASSIC PARK 3
2	RESERVED
3	RESERVED
4	BAGANSYA
5	NAG-AAPOY...
6	PANGAKO IKAW LANG
7 (DTS)	DR. DO LITTLE 2
8 (SDDS)	TOM CATS
9 (DOLBY)	FINAL FANTASY

Caloocan
tel 362.3508

2	JURASSIC PARK 3

Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1	PANGAKO, IKAW LANG
2	NAG-AAPOY..
3	BAGANSYA
4 (SDDS)	JURASSIC PARK 3
5	MAHAL KITA...
6 (DOLBY)	FINAL FANTASY
7 (DTS)	JURASSIC PARK 3
8	PARU-PARO
9	AMORSEKO

Commonwealth
tel 951.0083

1 (DTS)	JURASSIC PARK 3
2	BAGANSYA
3	NAG-AAPOY..
4	PANGAKO..
5 (SDDS)	JURASSIC PARK 3
6	MAHAL KITA..
7 (DOLBY)	FINAL FANTASY
8	PARUPARONG LIGAW

Ortigas
tel 656.6795

1	BAGANSYA
2	NAG-AAPOY...
3 (DTS)	JURASSIC PARK 3
4	PANGAKO IKAW LANG
5 (SDDS)	JURASSIC PARK 3

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

1	JURASSIC PARK 3

Sampaquita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	JURASSIC PARK 3

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson	NAG-AAPOY...
Lords	BAGANSYA
Jennet	NAG-AAPOY

MARKETPLACE Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	NAG-AAPOY...
2	JURASSIC PARK 3
3	RESERVED
4	MAHAL KITA...

Prima
(Pasig) tel 641.1215

3	JURASSIC PARK 3

Isetann Cineranna Complex Recto
SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY)	JURASSIC PARK 3
2	MAHAL KITA . . .
3	TOM CATS
4	BAGANSYA
5	NAG-AAPOY...

New Divisoria Mall
DIVISORIA CINEMA
tel 244.4619

1	JURASSIC PARK 3
2	BAGANSYA
3	NAG-AAPOY...
4	RESERVE
5	RESERVE
6	MAHAL KITA...

Baclaran LRT
LRT CINEMA
tel 512.0115

1 (DOLBY)	BAGANSYA
2	NAG-AAPOY...
3	JURASSIC PARK 3

Berma
tel 379-2029 or 30

1	JURASSIC PARK 3.
2	NAG-AAPOY NA LANGIT

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1	
2	
3	BAGANSYA
4	JURASSIC PARK 3

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1	DRIVEN
2	DUNGEONS
3 (DTS)	JURASSIC PARK 3

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	SWORDFISH
2 (DTS)	DUNGEONS
3 (DOLBY)	JURASSIC PARK 3
4	DRIVEN

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) Tel. (049) 411-1146

1	DRIVEN
2 (DOLBY)	JURASSIC PARK 3
3 (DTS)	JURASSIC PARK 3
4	SOON TO OPEN

Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	PANGAKO
2	SWORD FISH
3	SOON TO OPEN
4	SOON TO OPEN

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	JURASSIC PARK 3 .
2	UNANG TIBOK
3	NAG-AAPOY..
4 (DTS)	BAGANSYA

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	JURASSIC PARK 3
2	DRIVEN
3 (DTS)	SWORDFISH
4	COMMAND AND CONQUER
5	DUNGEONS

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	JURASSIC PARK 3 .
2	DUNGEONS
3	DRIVEN

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 536.5101

1	JURASSIC PARK 3
2	DUNGEONS
3	DRIVEN

Olivarez Tagaytay
tel (046) 413.0311

1	ACCIDENTAL SPY
2	PANGAKO...
3	AMORSEKO

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

1	JURASSIC PARK 3
2	DUNGEONS.
3	COMMAND AND CONQUER

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)	DUNGEONS
2 (DTS)	JURASSIC PARK 3

Fourstep
(Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385

1	JURASSIC PARK 3

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	PARU PARO
2	JURASSIC PARK 3.
3	ACCIDENTALSPY

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	MAHAL KITA...
2	PARUPARONG LIGAW
3	FINAL FANTASY
4	DRIVEN

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	JURASSIC PARK 3
2	MAHAL KITA...
3	ALONG CAME...
4 (DTS ES)	JURASSIC PARK 3

*Movies are subject to change without prior notice

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1	JURASSIC PARK-3
2	FINAL FANTASY
3	DR. DO LITTLE
4	SWORDFISH
5	JURASSIC PARK-3
6	JURASSIC PARK-3
7	TOMCATS
8	PANGAKO IKAW LANG
9	DRIVEN
10	ALONG CAME A SPIDER

ERMITA 536-7809 TO 12

1	JURASSIC PARK-3
2	FINAL FANTASY
3	DR. DO LITTLE
4	PANGAKO IKAW LANG
5	JURASSIC PARK-3
6	SWORDFISH
7	JURASSIC PARK-3

IMUS (046) 471-8188

1	JURASSIC PARK-3
2	DRIVEN
3	FINAL FANTASY
4	JURASSIC PARK-3
5	PANGAKO IKAW LANG
6	TOM CATS

NOVALICHES 938-7243

1	ALONG CAME A SPIDER
2	SOON TO OPEN
3	ROMEO MUST.../PROOF OF...
4	SWORD FISH
5	JURASSIC PARK-3
6	FINAL FANTASY
7	JURASSIC PARK-3
8	DR. DO LITTLE

BACOLOD (034) 441-0453

1	JURASSIC PARK-3
2	JURASSIC PARK-3
3	PANGAKO IKAW LANG
4	SWORD FISH
5	ACCIDENTAL SPY
6	ATLANTA

SOON TO OPEN
METRO EAST
ILOILO
SAN FERNANDO PAMPANGA

THX DOLBY DOLBY STEREO dts SDDS

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101

ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	PANGAKO IKAW LANG
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	BAGANSYA
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	JURASSIC PARK 3
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	FINAL FANTASY
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	JURASSIC PARK 3
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	SWORD FISH
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7(DOLBY)	DR. DOLITTLE 2
FARMERS PLAZA-1(DOLBY)	NAG-AAPOY NA LANGIT
FARMERS PLAZA-2(DOLBY)	JURASSIC PARK 3
FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	NAG-AAPOY NA LANGIT/EYES WHITE SHOOT
ODEON	JURASSIC PARK 3
ODEON-2	PARUPARONG LIGAW
ROBEN	NAG-AAPOY NA LANGIT
TANDEM-1	UNANG TIBOK
TANDEM-2	AMORSEKO
TIMES	EXIT WOUNDS/MEXICAN
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	NAG-AAPOY NA LAMAN
QUEZON-1	JURASSIC PARK-3
REMAR	JURASSIC PARK-3
REMAR-2	PARUPARONG LIGAW
CUBAO	
OCEAN SUPERAMA	BABAENG PUTIK
OCEAN CINEMA-A	PANABLA
OCEAN CINEMA-B	CRISELDA
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	JURASSIC PARK 3
CINEMA-2	SWORDFISH
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	MAHAL KITA KAHIT...
CINEMA-2	NAG-AAPOY NA LANGIT
CINEMA-3	BAGANSYA
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	JURASSIC PARK 3
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	TOMB RAIDER
CINEMA-6	PARO PARONG LIGAW
CINEMA-7	SWORDFISH
CINEMA-8	DRIVEN
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	JURASSIC PARK 3
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	JURASSIC PARK 3
CINEMA-11(SDDS)	FINAL FANTASY
CINEMA-12	DR. DOLITTLE 2
CINEMA-14	TOM CATS
CINEMA-15	PANGAKO IKAW LANG
LORES	
CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	DR. DOLITTLE-2
CINEMA-2	ALONG CAME A SPIDER
CINEMA-3	JURASSIC PARK-3
CINEMA-4	JURASSIC PARK-3
CINEMA-5	SWORDFISH
CINEMA-6	JURASSIC PARK-3
UNIWIDE METROMALL	
(LAS PINAS)	
CINEMA-1	JULIETA
CINEMA-2	NANANABIK
CINEMA-4	SCARED
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARANAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	TOROTOT
CINEMA-2	KAKAIBANG KARISMA
CINEMA-4	ISA LAMANG ANG DAPAT MAHALIN

Jet Li movie premiere

CAMPUS Radio 97.1 dwLS-FM, with Buena Vista International, premieres "Kiss of the Dragon," an action-packed movie for the pleasure of conspiracy-espionage enthusiasts.

Asian superstar Jet Li and Bridget Fonda topbill this stylish martial arts thriller about an agent trapped in a web of espionage, conspiracy, murder and prostitution.

Written by visionary filmmaker Luc Besson, of the "The Professional" and "The Fifth Element" fame, and based on a story by Jet Li, "Kiss of the Dragon" promises nonstop action the way only Jet Li can deliver.

Free tickets shall be given to lucky Campus Radio dwLS-FM listeners. The advance screening of "Kiss of the Dragon" is made possible by Bonakid, Rexona Active, Chapstick, Energizer, Zesto Calamansi Soda and Storck Candy.

Sandwich album launch

ONE of the country's top rock bands, Sandwich, is back with their impressive second album, "Four Track Mind."

Sandwich as a band is relatively young. The members have been together for three years and have released two albums.

The members of the band are no strangers to the Philippine rock scene. Marc Abaya, vocalist/guitarist for Sandwich, has played in several underground bands like Rooftop, Sideswipe and Shirley Beans. Co-frontman Raimund Marasigan it the drummer of The Eraserheads Drummer Mike Dizon was formerly with Teeth. Bassist Myrene Academia is the programming director for NU 107 and guitarist Diego Castillo played for the legendary Aga Muhlach Experience (with Myrene and Mike) and the indie pop band Death To All.

Sandwich's second album, "Four Track Mind," contains 18 tracks including two new singles—"Food for the Soul" and the syrupy ballad "Hairpin." Both songs are now enjoying extensive airplay on local radio stations.

At 8 tonight, Sandwich will formally launch their album in a free showcase at Marikina Riverbanks.

The first 300 buyers of the album at the venue will get a free ear gear from Philips.

"Four Track Mind" is available in CDs and cassettes at record stores nationwide, released under BMG Records Pilipinas.

LOUIE'S CINEMA

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NOW SHOWING

JURASSIC PARK III

ACTION-ADVENTURE-SUSPENSE STARRING SAM NEILL, WILLIAM H. MACY, TEA LEONI, ALLESSANDRO NIVOLA, TRAVOR MORGAN AND MICHAEL JETER - PG-13 - RT-1:30

July 30-Monday

5:50-PM JURASSIC PARK 3
8:00 PM-CLOSED (LRP Foundation)
10:30 PM-JURASSIC PARK 3

ENTERTAINMENT

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

A movie, a book and a supermarket visit with Josh

KRIS AND TELL

Kris Aquino

"JURASSIC Park III" is really worth watching. I caught it Thursday night in Greenbelt, and I screamed my head off for most of the film.

It's a thrill and should really be viewed in the theater. They didn't scrimp on the special effects and the dinosaurs are extremely life-like and seen all throughout the film, unlike in the first "Jurassic Park" and in "The Lost World" where their appearance was *bitin*!

I truly felt I got more than my money's worth. Watch it with a friend who won't mind being grabbed, tugged, pinched and shoved by you.

* * *

I HAVE just finished the book "The Blue Nowhere" by **Jeffery** (yup, that's how he spells his name) **Deaver**. It's an excellent, well researched, yet non-textbook like cyber-thriller.

We do so much work on our laptops or PCs, we go on-line for information, e-mailing, Internet shopping, on-line banking, and infinitely more. This book gave me an insight into how little I really know about the unique powers of the computer and how all my personal information can be dissected and used for purposes that can abuse or harm me. Thank goodness that for most computer hackers there's an unwritten code of conduct that spares us "civilians" from harm (economic sabotage, altering of our medical files and the like). It's an unbelievably hard to put down book.

* * *

ONE of my favorite childhood activities with my mom when I was a child was doing our family's supermarket shopping together. During the late 1970s and early 1980s, it was either UniMart in Greenhills or Tropical Hut on Quezon Avenue. Josh and I are continuing the tradition, although we only get to do it every six weeks or so.

We traveled all the way to Katipunan Avenue near Ateneo to give Rustan's Fresh a try. About two months ago, our newspaper had a leaflet announcing the opening of the new branch.

I was impressed by the array of fresh fruits and vegetables on display. These were arranged in baskets so you could touch the produce and bag your choices personally. They also had a lot of meat, fish, and poultry, in convenient one-meal-for-one-family-sized styropor and cling-wrap packaging.

The set-up reminded me of a Safeway Supermarket, just like in California. The aisles were wide, the shopping carts were either spacious for bulk shoppers like me, shaped like a car for those with toddlers (poor Josh was just too big to fit into one), or small ones for daily shoppers.

Commercials always work with Josh and me. My son loves the scent of the new variants of Gee Your Hair Smells Terrific. I love the way the new Rejoice Complete shampoo cleans and conditions his hair, and the shampoo also smells very clean.

I'm so glad that Dove is now distributed locally by Unilever. I'm partial to the unscented variant, alternating that with Cetaphil for my facial cleansing. Both really keep my face smooth, clean, yet never dry.

Josh's skin is softest when we use Johnson's PH 5.5 2-in-1 body wash with moisturizers and the matching PH 5.5 body lotion.

Unlike other kids who have to be forced to take a shower, Josh has to be coaxed to get out of the shower. I guess he inherited his vanity from me, because his ritual is never complete until we put lotion on him after each shower. Sometimes that's up to four times in the course of the day.

My son asked for Milo when we were in the aisle where all the milk products were. He used to gulp down a lot of my coffee until I finally convinced him that warm milk with Milo was even yummier than my coffee.

He's also in love with Royal Tru Orange over and above all other soft drinks, hence we buy two cases. My mom was never strict with me regarding softdrink consumption, as long as it was with meals and not taken first thing in the morning. So that's also our rule in the house.

Josh loves Del Monte's canned pineapple orange and four seasons juice drinks. He also enjoys Mr. Juicy Orange Juice.

I'm sure the cashier and the baggers felt our household must drink a lot since we had so many different softdrinks (Diet Coke, Diet Sprite and Mountain Dew for me), juices, and milks (Anchor in the individual tetra packs for Josh, Magnolia Low Fat for me).

According to our cook **Mel**, Josh often asks for *mami* noodles with a hard-boiled egg for breakfast or *merienda*. So a dozen packs of the chicken and the beef variants went into our cart. I just don't recall which noodle brand we bought, but my cook said we should try both Lucky Me and Maggi since she wasn't sure which he preferred.

Josh is also obsessed with cheese, so we buy all kinds, from quick melt to cheddar to cheesefood to grated parmesan cheese.

When we were in the cookie section, I told Josh he could choose whatever he wanted, but it was just Chips Ahoy for him and nothing else. I asked *Yaya* **Ana** why Josh didn't get any Oreos, and she said that Josh really preferred Chips Ahoy, I was the one who was partial to Oreos (Shucks, *nabisto ako*).

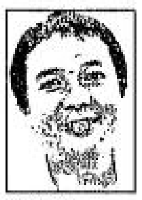
I'm sure that like me, all moms out there really do their supermarket shopping in the hope of pleasing their kids. For us busy moms, it's a way of showing we care enough to do it personally.

As long as our budget can handle it, whatever will make them happy really does go into the cart. Their choices really matter most to us, and what they want is on top of our priority list.

Lucky for me, Josh has always had a very healthy appetite, and it's a joy to buy him food since he really appreciates and enjoys eating.

Boob-tube booboos

VIEWFINDER



Nestor U. Torre

HOST: I hear that your marriage is in trouble. What's the real score between you and your wife?

Star: Well, it's really OK. Up to date, she's still my wife!

(Up to date?)

* * *

Host: Our guest tonight is a beauty queen we can truly by proud of!

Beauty queen: Hello, good evening! Wow, deserving *kaya ako sa* introduction mo?

Host: Of course. After all you restored honor to our country in the world!

(Wow, *sobra na talaga yan*!)

* * *

Host: Now, let's meet the members of our board of judges for tonight's contest.

Cohost: Can I do the honors?

Host: Of course!

Cohost: Our first judge is one of the countriest top directors!

(Huh?)

* * *

Host: How do you think our president is doing?

Cohost: Well, everything considered, OK! In fact, I think we should give her an award for her dramatic accent of powers!

(*Ano daw*?)

* * *

Host: *O, bumati ka naman sa kanila.*

Guest: *Ay, oo nga pala. Magandang gabi sa lahat ng nanonood sa inyo!*

(*Sinong nanonood—kanino*?)

* * *

Host: What's the latest on the skirmish this morning out there? Any fatalities?

Field reporter: No fatalities, but two or three civilians were hit by ashtray bullets!

(*Ay*, ashtray!)

* * *

Host: What is the state of Philippine education at present?

Official: Oh, not so good. Even the sentence could not read by the student!

(Wow, we really have problems!)

* * *

Quiz show host; Our next question is in multiplication. It's very simple. Are you ready?

Contestant: Ready.

Quiz show host: 8x1?

Contestant: 1!

(*Patay.*)

* * *

Host: Is the military taking accusations of human rights violations lightly? Recently, there have been some accusations to that effect.

Official: No, *hindi namin binabalewala ang mga* human rights violations—in fact, it is a priority!

(Ah, please repeat?)

* * *

Host: Do you think Filipino men prefer a girl who is still a virgin?

Female guest: Of course! Can you easily tell a man before making love to him *na* disvirginized *ka na!*

(Huh?)

'Frasier'

THE FUN continues on "Frasier" every Monday at 9:30 p.m. on Star World: On Aug. 6, Frasier and Niles find the manuscript of a new book by a famous writer who recently dropped by their neighborhood.

On Aug. 13, Niles fills in for Frasier at the radio station and is able to help a star player recover his amazing dribbling ability.

On Aug. 20, Frasier convinces Niles not to declare his feelings for Daphne, thinking that he isn't Daphne's type. Imagine his surprise, therefore, when he meets Daphne's new guy, and he turns out to be almost exactly like Niles!

And on Aug. 27, the episode tackles the age-old question: how could two men as different as Niles and Frasier be brothers?

Mariah on Star World

CATCH **Mariah Carey** with **Jay-Z**, 98 Degrees, Da Brat and **DJ Clue** in the concert, "Mariah Carey's Homecoming" on Star World on Monday, Aug. 6 at 10 p.m. and on Tuesday, Aug. 7 at 1:30 a.m.

POWER PLANT CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41 DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

DR. DOLITTLE 2 - GP 11:30, 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30	ALONG CAME A SPIDER - P 13 11:30, 1:30, 3:40, 5:50, 8:00, 10:10	JURASSIC PARK 3 12:40, 2:50, 5:00, 7:10, 9:20
JURASSIC PARK 3-P13 12:00, 2:10, 4:20, 6:30, 8:40	SWORDFISH - R18 11:00, 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50	JURASSIC PARK 3-P13 11:10, 1:20, 3:30, 5:40, 7:50, 10:00

Matinee: P80, Mon.-Fri, 11:10 am to 4:45 pm Screenings, Free Seating.

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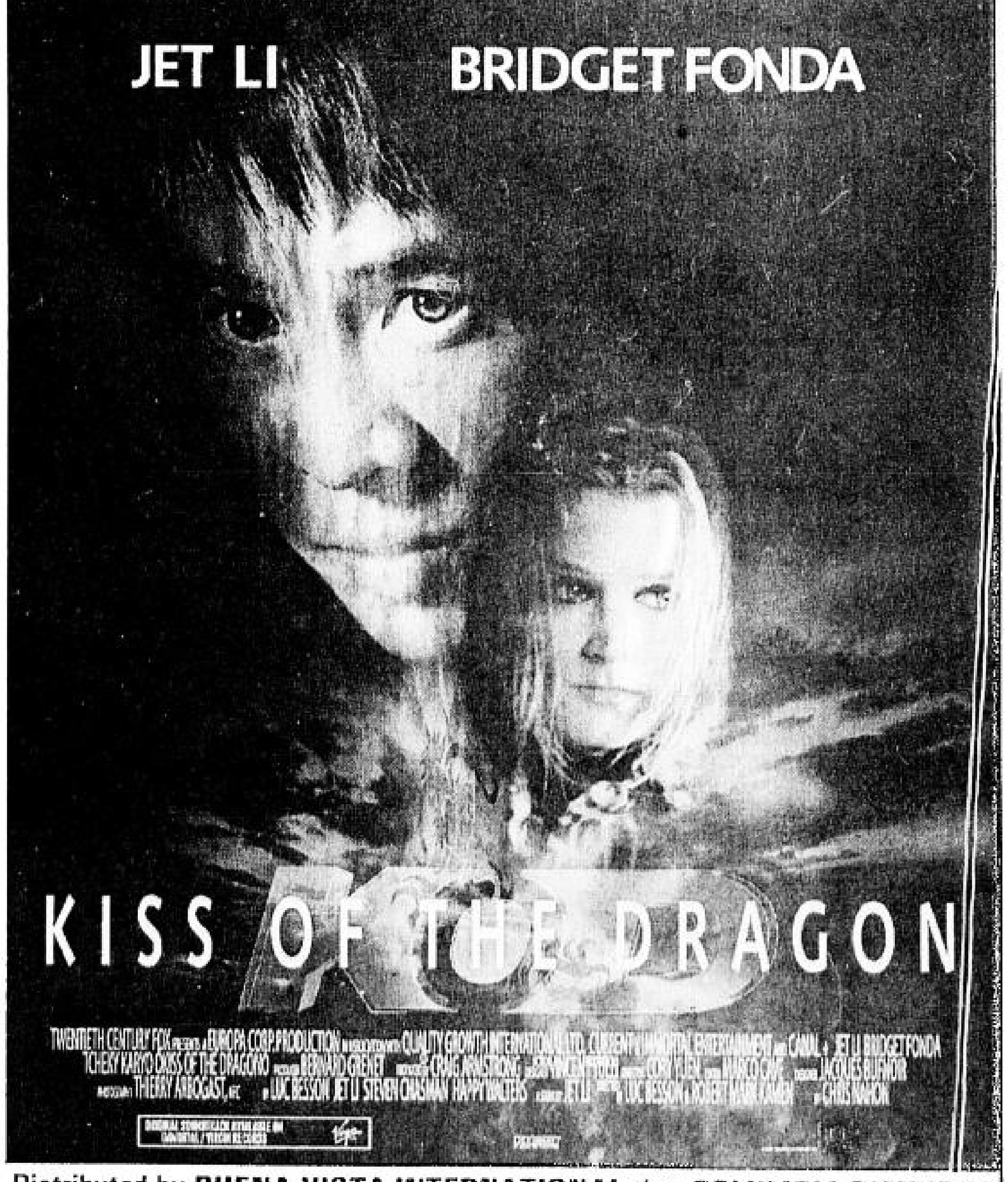
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BRIDGET FONDA
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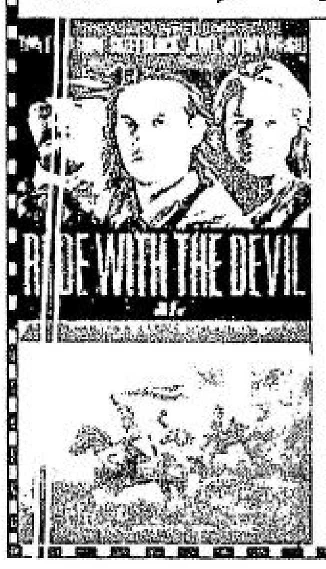
MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13
Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.



PHILIPPINE PREMIERE
From the Critically Acclaimed Director of "CROUCHING TIGER, HIDDEN DRAGON"
RIDE WITH THE DEVIL
A Film by ANG LEE
IN A NO-MAN'S LAND BETWEEN NORTH AND SOUTH, YOU DIDN'T FIGHT FOR THE BLUE OR THE GRAY... YOU FOUGHT FOR YOUR FRIENDS AND YOUR FAMILY.
SKEET ULRICH TOBEY MAGUIRE JEFFREY WRIGHT
Ang Lee ("The Ice Storm," "Sense and Sensibility" & Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon") once again takes audiences on a journey to a different time and place, and into his characters' internal conflicts. A cast of rising young stars portrays young Americans, striving to define themselves and the country they had always called home, amidst national turmoil. The screenplay for Ride with the Devil is adapted (by Lee's longtime collaborator, James Schamus) from Daniel Woodrell's novel Woe to Live On.

GRAND OPENING - TOMORROW!
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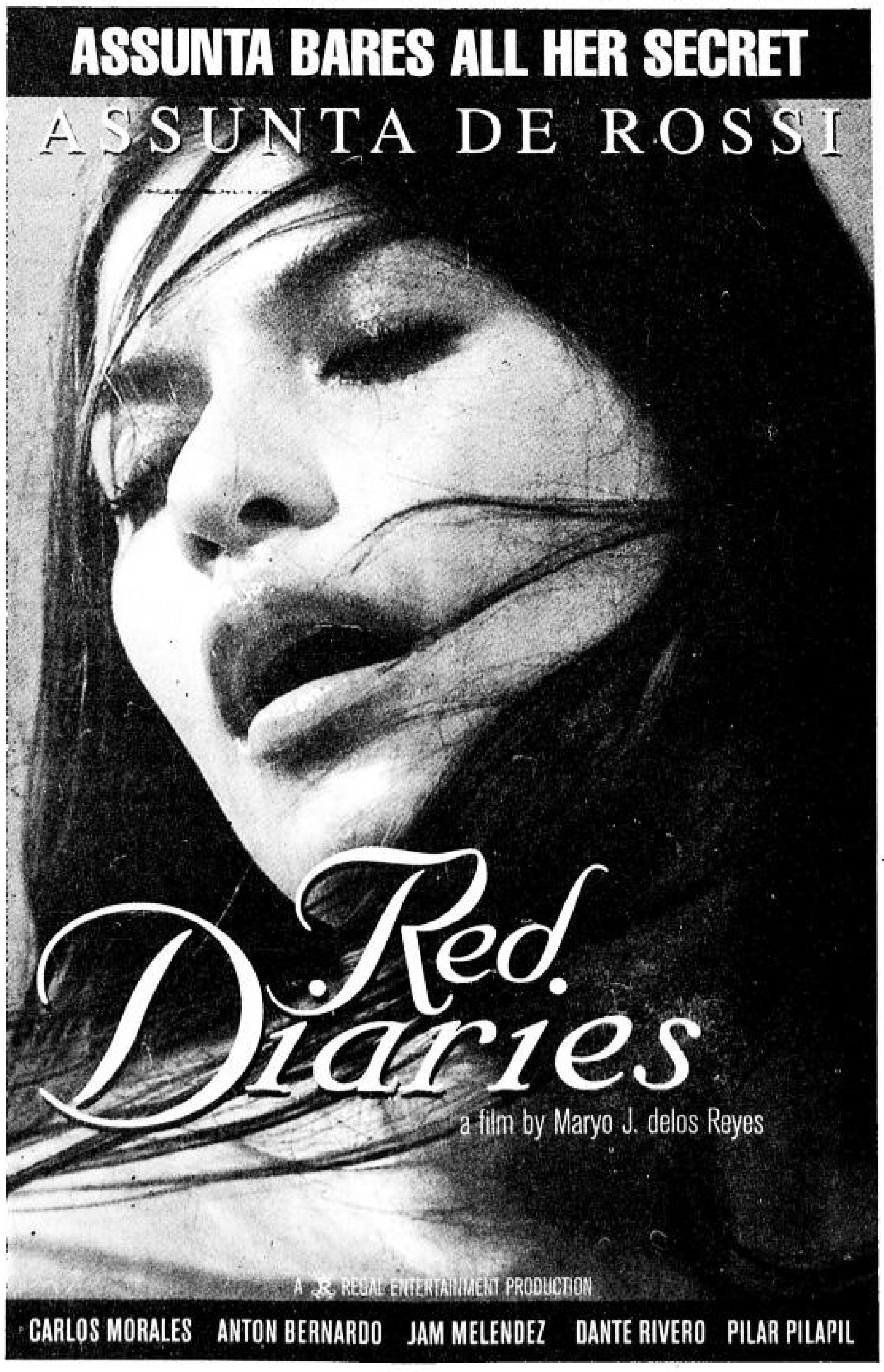
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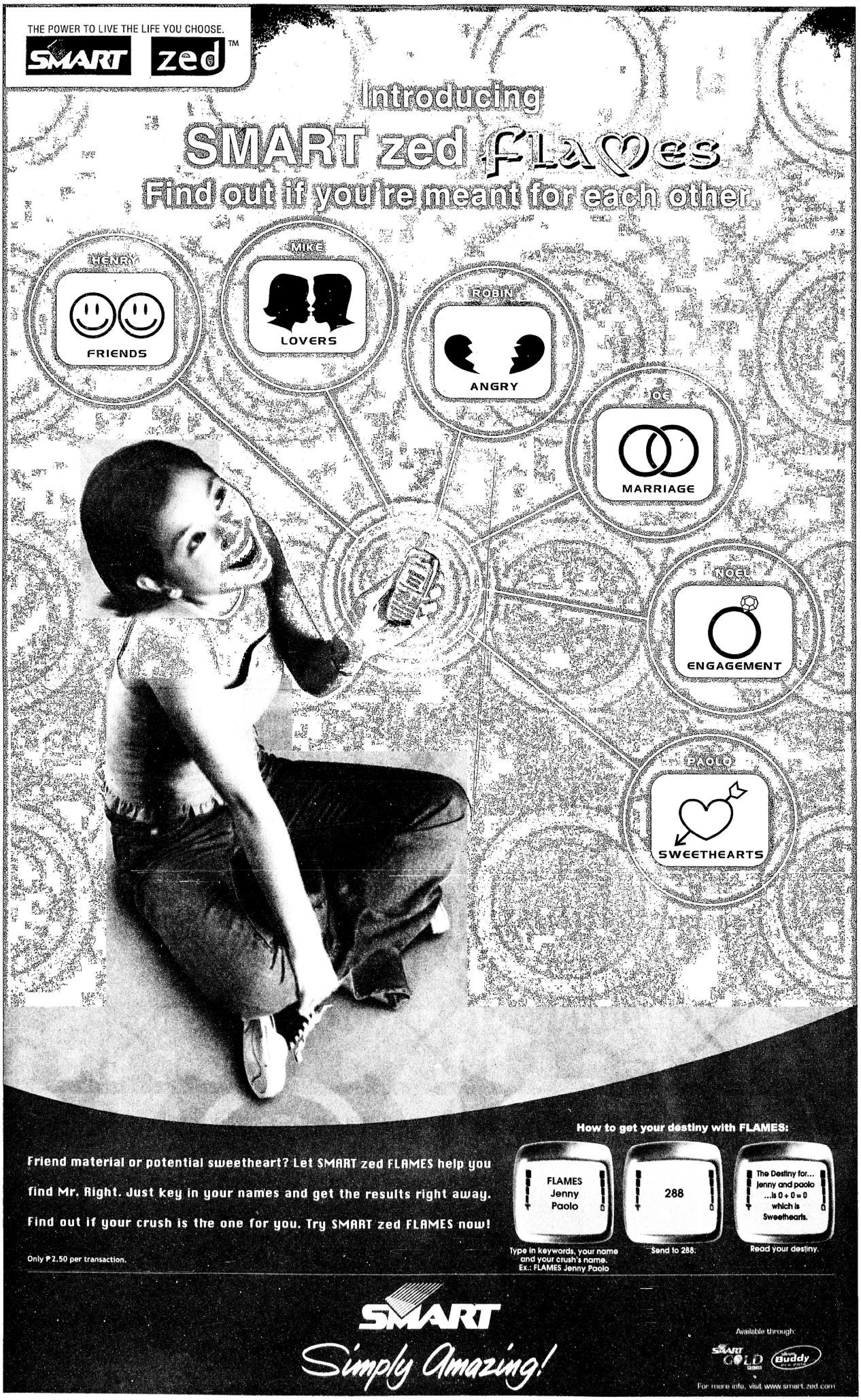
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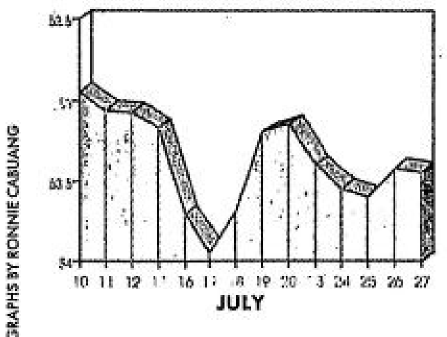

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P 53.45 = $1
As of 5 p.m.,
July 27, 2001

¥ 123.92 = $1
The US dollar was trading at 123.92 as of 5 p.m., July 27, 2001

GOLD:$266.20/266.70
per ounce Hong Kong,
July 27, 2001

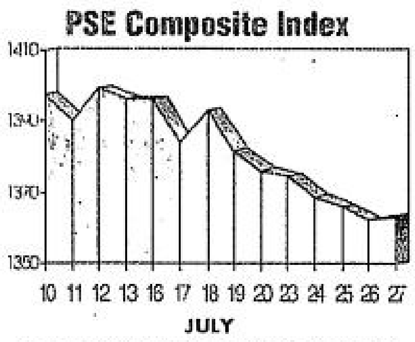
STOCK MARKET

Stocks to track peso movement

STOCK prices are expected to move within a very narrow range this week, although positive first-half results from key index issues may spur some buying.

Analysts said that while share prices are at very attractive levels, the overhang of possible further foreign selling may dampen buying support at this time.

PSE Composite Index



(See stock market report on Page B6)

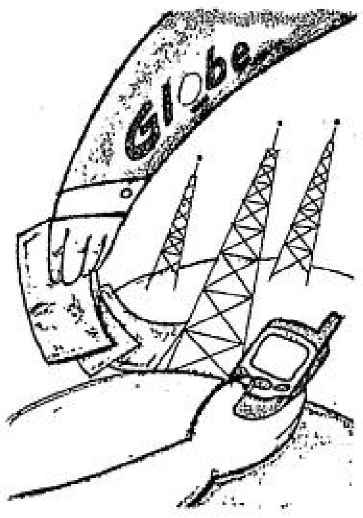
Globe investing ₱39.8B for expansion project

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

GLOBE Telecom Inc. is investing P39.82 billion for an expansion program designed to boost capacity to more than 7 million by December 2003 and meet the rapid growth of mobile phone subscribers and hankering for better services.

Globe Telecom, a joint venture between the Ayala group and Singapore Telecom International Pte. Ltd., will spend P25.82 billion of its cash and borrow P14 billion to install nearly 1,000 new cell sites, 37 base stations, and 17 mobile switching centers over the next two and half years. Globe's project would allow the firm to add 3.922 million new subscribers to its network.

Globe Telecom said the project, dubbed the Phase 8 Expansion, would lessen the firm's dropped call rates, lower signal blocking and



boost its call-up success rate aimed at maintaining reliable and efficient service even during peak hours.

The company is confident that demand for mobile communication would continue to rise sharply in the near- to medium-term since penetration rate remained low at 8.3 percent for wireless and 4.1 percent for fixed lines.

The expansion project was granted pioneer status by the Board of Investment because it more than exceeded the P1-billion minimum investment for this type of undertaking.

However, Globe would be eligible for a three-year income tax holiday instead of the standard six-year term for pioneer investments because the BOI deemed it as an expansion of previously registered projects.

Previously, the BOI granted similar perks to Globe Telecom rival Smart Communications Inc., which has budgeted P17 billion for its project to increase the capacity of its digital cellular network.

Smart is expanding its GSM (global system for mobile communication) network capacity for both voice calls and short messaging system or text messages to meet the near doubling of its subscriber base to 4 million at the end of this year from 2.3 million last year.

This is the third project registered by Globe Telecom with the BOI, with the first two projects made in 1994 for the installation of 700,000 lines and international digital gateway facility in Metro Manila, and the establishment of a nationwide digital cellular mobile telephone system to be based in Manila and Cebu.

Globe Telecom is currently negotiating with mobile phone providers Nokia Communication of Finland and Ericsson Radio System of Sweden for the supply of GSM equipment.

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	Wagon	₱ 1,710.000	₱ 855,000	₱ 47,500	ZERO% INTEREST
VECTRA 2.0L A/T	Sedan	₱ 1,165.000	₱ 582,500	₱ 32,362	ZERO% INTEREST
	Wagon	₱ 1,245.000	₱ 622,500	₱ 34,583	ZERO% INTEREST
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UNEXPECTED INCREASE IN 6 MOS

BOI to double investment target this year

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE BOARD of Investments is planning to double its investment target this year to P100 billion as new investments mostly by local investors rose higher than expected in the last six months

Trade Secretary Manuel "Mar" Roxas II said the agency had already surpassed its P50-billion investment goal with five more months to go this year and he expects the trend to continue for the rest of the year.

Roxas, however, refused to state the BOI's new target although officials were looking at P100-billion goal.

At P100 billion, the new target would be 130 percent better than last year's P43.611 billion, the agency's lowest in 12 years as foreign and local investors avoided the Philippines due to the political crisis during the period.

Investments climbed 213 percent to P34.9 billion in the first half this year from P11.1 billion in 2000. These investments are expected to generate 13,239 new jobs. The bulk of these investments was made by two of the country's leading telecommunication providers—Smart Communications Inc. (P8.1 billion) and Digital Telecommunications Inc. (P17.1 billion). Globe Telecoms Inc.'s P39.7 project, which was approved last week is expected to further boost the BOI's investment registration performance.

BOI managing head Gregory Domingo revealed that several big ticket items—with project costs ranging from P2 billion to P8 billion—were still in the pipeline and were still undergoing review.

Domingo said the surge in investment flows into the country was also reflected in the Philippine Economic Zone Authority's performance. Investments in Peza industrial estates rose 19 percent to P19.8 billion in the first half of this year from P16.5 billion in 2000.

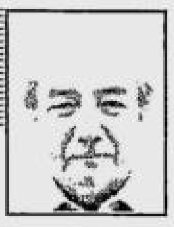
Domingo's immediate predecessor, Energy Secretary Vincent Perez, had targeted a modest 15-percent growth in investments to P50 billion this year as the economy goes into a consolidation phase with the abrupt change in administration.

Perez said the BOI had discounted this year as a "transition period" and was looking toward a more explosive growth in the next three years. Investors have taken a wait-and-see mode this year due to the sluggish economic growth and lingering skepticism over the new administration.

Retirees back SSS privatization

QUESTIONS OF POLICIES

Honesto C. General



AT a roast pork loin dinner the other night, the officers of the Philippine Association of Retired Persons (PARP)—the nationwide organization of SSS and GSIS retirees—made one thing absolutely clear to the officers of the Alert and Concerned Employees for a Better SSS (Access), the SSS employees union: PARP was backing all the way the privatization of certain SSS functions as spelled out by SSS president Nañagas.

For weeks now, Access has been staging demonstrations in front of the SSS main office in Quezon City during lunch break. Posters plastered on the SSS building scream no to privatization and demand Nañagas' resignation.

Access is scared that privatization will result in loss of jobs. PARP explained that, in privatizing investments, if outside fund managers were to handle only new investible funds (about P15 billion is generated every year), there would be no job loss. Also, since the computers are already running at full capacity, if only the excess load will be farmed out to private servers (this is called out sourcing, quite popular in the private sector), there will be no job loss.

During the Estrada administration, SSS bought condominium units and other types of real estate. (Erap was not only a stock broker; he was also a real estate broker.) Some of these properties may have to be sold to ease cash flow. ID card production may be privatized if it could be done more cheaply by an outside contractor. There will be some job loss, but it can be absorbed by other departments. Certainly, there will be no mass layoffs. In fact, Nañagas says in writing that no one will lose his job.

After PARP's explanation, Access agreed that privatization is nothing to be really scared of.

Nañagas had explained to PARP that the loss in crony investments during the past administration, estimated to reach as much as P15 billion, would have to be recovered somehow. One way is to cut expenses by privatizing certain functions.

Talking of expenses, in 1998, a year after the new law was enacted, SSS approved across-the-board salary increases amounting to—hold your breath—close to P1 billion. For the 4,000 employees, this meant an average increase of almost P250,000 per head. When one considers that the retiree's average pension is P2,640 monthly, and more than half of the 800,000 retirees grovel at the minimum of P2,000 monthly, the salary increases are downright sinful.

Access complains of the management style of Nañagas. Access says that he has not called a planning meeting, and committees required under civil service rules have been disbanded. But, most of all, he says one thing one day, another the next.

Nañagas could have just blended with the scenery and everything would go on as before. Instead, he is shaking the SSS establishment to its very roots. Since this is good for the members, PARP is all for it.

PARP expressed its chagrin that Access has gone to the streets with its grievances. Access said this was only after Malacañang ignored their written plea. At any rate, Access will have to show that what they are doing is in the interest, not only of the 2,800 noisy employees who signed the plea, but, more important, of the silent 23,000,000 members, 800,000 of whom are retirees. In the numbers game, Access loses badly.

Access has shown little concern beyond its own self-interest. When the Equitable Bank-PCI merger scandal broke in 1999 (members are losing almost P4.5 billion so far on this deal), Access kept mum. Other investment scandals came to light. Access said nothing. When PARP raised its voice against these scandals, there was not one word of sympathy from Access.

Why should Access care? It's not their money. SSS employees are government employees. They are GSIS, not SSS, members. Except for some who have opted for voluntary membership (at their huge salaries, they can well afford it) SSS employees do not contribute into SSS.

Finally, PARP was concerned that communist front organizations like Courage, KMU and Sanlakas are supporting Access. PARP made it clear that if Access continues naively flirting with these groups, PARP will never support Access. Access promised to be careful with the company it keeps. On this high note, the meeting ended. A nice time was had by all.

RP urged to step up campaign against piracy

CITING weak enforcement of laws protecting intellectual property rights, an officer of the United States Embassy in Manila is urging government to step up its campaign against piracy of optical discs and cable TV signals.

Speaking at a recent forum on piracy issues, US economic officer David Krzywda said existing Philippine laws against piracy were adequate. "But without enforcement, laws are useless," he stressed.

The embassy official made the observation amid the proliferation and public sale of pirated software, VCDs and other optical media discs, including the unabated piracy of cable TV signals by rogue cable operators throughout the country.

Due to the growing incidence of piracy, Krzywda said the Philippines was recently included in the US Special 301 Priority Watch List—a roster of countries that failed to provide adequate protection to intellectual property rights (IPR). "If the situation deteriorates, the Philippines could face investigation by the Office of the US Trade Representative and possible retaliatory moves or trade sanctions," he said.

Despite the bleak scenario, he expressed confidence that President Macapagal-Arroyo would take every step to get the Philippines out of the Special 301 Watch List. This view was shared by director general Emma Francisco of the Intellectual Property Office (IPO) who stressed that IPR and piracy issues were being given the highest priority by the President.

Even the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) has made assurances that the agency is taking every effort to curb piracy, especially in the cable TV industry. NTC Deputy Commissioners Kathleen Heceta and Armi Jane Borje said their agency recognizes its role to protect the rights of program providers. "To do this, however, we at the NTC need to have the necessary information and materials that will enable us to implement the law effectively. Needless to say, we need to give more teeth to the law," Borje stressed.

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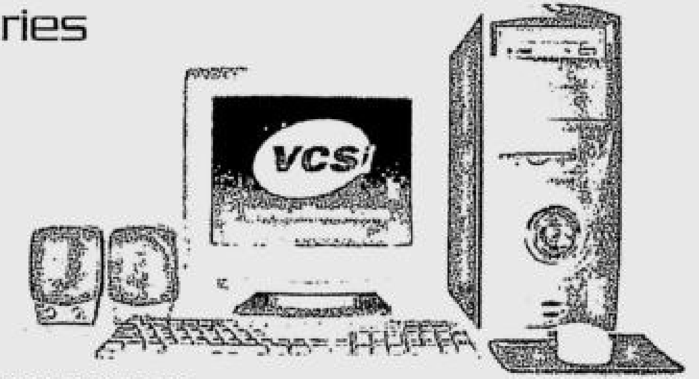

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SEPTEMBER 13, 2001 (Thursday)
Makati Shangri-la Hotel

Growth of Franchising in Asia: An Overview
Industry Update: Trends and Innovations *(11 Country Reports Philippines, Australia, New Zealand, Taiwan, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Singapore, Korea, Japan, China and Canada)*
Economic Prospects of Asia Pacific Economics in the Medium Term
Franchising in Europe
Franchising in Latin America
How to Expand Your Franchise Network

SEPTEMBER 14, 2001 (Friday)
Makati Shangri-la Hotel

Global Trends and Innovations
Franchising Industry in the U.S.
Voices Experience: From the "Masters" of Franchising
Franchising as a Tool for Economic Development
Roles of Franchisors in the Shopping Mall

Track 1: FINANCE
Acquiring Capital to Build Your Franchise Network

Track 2: LEGAL
Structuring a Franchise Agreement
Arbitration as an Alternative Solution to Settle Disputes
Workshop on Legal Aspects in Franchising,
* Unidroit Law

Track 3: MARKETING AND DEVELOPMENT
Supporting Your Franchisees: Strategies That Build Winning Relationships
Motivating and Retaining Your Best Employees
Re-EngineeringYour Franchise Network
Elements of Successful Franchising

Track 4: INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
Using Internet Technolgy to Expand Your Business
eBusiness Strategies and Solutions

SPECIAL SESSION
September 14, 2001 (Friday) Makati Shangri-la Hotel

Franchise Sales and Marketing Strategies
Don Boroian, Chairman, Francorp International

SEPTEMBER 15-16, 2001 (Sat & Sun)
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BUYING THE RIGHT FRANCHISE
What is Franchising?
The Pros and Cons
Franchising vs. Independent Business Start-up
Is Franchising For You? - Self Evaluation
Selecting the Franchise That's Right For You
Understanding the Franchise Agreement

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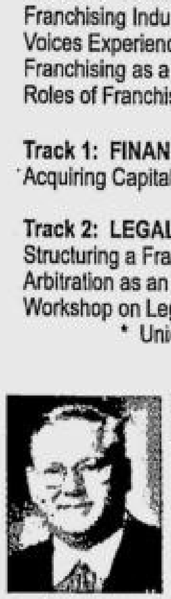

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ON THE MONEY
John Mangun

REGARDLESS of your opinion of the speech, it was probably a good thing that the Sona was given last Monday. At least it encouraged both government and bankers to keep the peso from falling any more. As of this writing, you can comfortably buy one US dollar for 53+ pesos. Isn't life wonderful!

I hesitate to describe the current situation as the same as looking at a chicken running around with its head cut off. However, I do see some striking similarities. On one hand, the administration says that it is committed to the free market and the price forces thereof. At the same time the Bangko Sentral warns that it is going to "go after" dollar hoarders. If I remember correctly, the "free market" allows me to hoard what ever I want.

For weeks, we have been told that the price of the peso is the result of many factors, none of which includes price speculation (That is their word. Mine is manipulation). Nonetheless, the BSP has identified at least a dozen banks whose currency trading practices are suspect. And as of last Monday, for the first time, Finance Secretary Camacho said the government is now convinced that some banks have been speculating against the peso, dragging it to a new six-month low. I have been telling you that since the end of June.

Allow me to warn you of something. Regardless of the government's newfound knowledge and wisdom about currency trading, the economic danger we face is far from over.

I have received numerous letters telling me how wrong I am about the peso being artificially weak. I am told that we have no business comparing ourselves currency-wise to Thailand, as that economy is booming and therefore the baht at 45 is justified. A report issued last Thursday shows that the Thai economy will grow at 2-3 percent this year, miraculously on par with the Philippines. The euphoria in Indonesia will evaporate quickly, causing a further slide of the rupiah. These two "regional" problems will give justification to the bank "speculators" to further weaken our currency. I hope that I am wrong but either way, "they" win and you lose.

And speaking of being wrong, let us assume for a moment that I am simply paranoid about the banks and all that we have been told about "free market forces" is accurate. Let us assume that our god-forsaken economy does warrant a 60 to the dollar currency. That does not discount the fact that the government has no policy or program in place to mitigate the effects of a weakening currency. Of course, my solution requires government recognizing the needs of business and business working closely with the government. Those two elements make success almost impossible but let's try it anyway.

Dollar buyers have different reasons and different requirements. Take the Filipino company that imports raw materials and exports the finished goods. Armed with a letter of credit for raw material purchases and a contract to sell the finished goods abroad, this company goes to the BSP. The BSP agrees to sell dollars at a rate of 45 to the dollar. The company agrees to sell back to the BSP the dollars it receives from its exports at a rate of 44.75. The company gets "cheap" dollars. It has no currency risk and likewise makes no additional profit from the currency transaction. The BSP has its dollars back in the vault a few months later with a very slight profit to cover transaction expenses. The company can concentrate on making its profit from its core business with no concern as to currency fluctuations. The BSP uses its dollars to help a Filipino business stay in business without risk to the international reserves.

Another local firm imports products not available locally and of an essential nature that is repackaged for sale to the domestic market only. This might include powdered milk, for example. Here the problem is more complicated but solvable. Right now, there are millions of dollars sitting in deposits at very low interest rates with the local banks. The BSP offers to set up interest bearing accounts at a rate much higher than normal dollar deposits but with the interest payable in pesos. The interest payment is made to the depositor quarterly and is based on the then current peso-dollar conversion rate. Interest would be tax-free.

The principal deposit is locked up for a period of five years and if liquidated earlier must be converted to pesos based on the peso-dollar rate at time of placement. The dollars that the BSP receives in deposits is then loaned to the importer at an interest rate higher than being given to the initial deposit again payable in pesos. The loan is then repaid in dollars or in pesos; the rate based on conversion factor at the time the loan is made. The BSP takes a slight risk that depreciation would cost them but only on the interest payment and not on the principal. The depositor would, at the worst get dollars back with the higher tax-free interest offsetting any currency losses. The borrower takes no currency risk but pays slightly high interest rate on his loan to offset this lack of currency risk. Further, he is not required to source dollars using cash in hand. By this, there would be less pressure on the price of the peso, as legitimate demand would not have "to go into the market" to obtain dollars. This same system could be used for importers of capital equipment. Risks notwithstanding, in the meantime Filipino business continues while waiting for general economic conditions to improve.

Other dollar "users" could continue to source at the jewelry store/money changer located near Recto. The problem is that the administration and the BSP in particular, due to a lack of policy and program, are forcing legitimate dollar buyers to behave like the speculators that are causing our economy and country so much damage.

(John Mangun can be reached at 636-1121 to 35, Fax Number 634-2349 or e-mail at johnmangun@yahoo.com.)

Boni firms given 10 days to start work on exchange

BY ELENA R. TORRIJOS

THE PHILIPPINE Stock Exchange, through its legal counsel, has demanded that Fort Bonifacio Development Corp. and Capital Consortium Inc. immediately begin construction of the exchange's premises for a unified trading floor in accordance with a 1999 relocation agreement.

In a letter last week to FBDC chair Manuel Pangilinan and CCI president Ricardo Pascua, Bernardo Lopez of Tan Acut & Lopez law firm, said that, if within 10 days of receipt of the letter the property developers have not yet begun construction based on the terms earlier agreed upon, the exchange would file appropriate court action.

The PSE also demanded that, within the same period, FBDC and CCI turnover over deeds of donation over the properties promised for the bourse in Bonifacio Global City.

"Two months have passed since you are supposed to commence construction of the PSE premises and there is no certainty or any indication that you will comply with your obligations. Based on expert evaluation, if you do not forthwith start construction of the PSE premises, it is physically impossible for you to complete construction thereof to allow our client sufficient time to fit out the premises to permit trading to commence in December 2004," Lopez noted.

Under the 1999 relocation agreement signed by FBDC and CCI, the PSE was to relocate its unified trading floor to Bonifacio Global City to spur development of the area and promote it as the country's new financial capital.

In return, FBDC and CCI were to donate a 40,000-square meter lot at Capital Place within the city and provide P250 million for the construction of a PSE building by 2001.

Last month, FBDC and CCI proposed amendments to the agreement, which the PSE rejected. FBDC and CCI had proposed the PSE accept another lot outside Capital Place. The two companies also indicated they would no longer construct the building for the PSE.

The PSE, however, refused to make any amendment to the relocation agreement.

"To open (the agreement) to amendments at this time, especially along the lines you have suggested, would be going back to the drawing board," the PSE said.

The PSE also argued that the deeds of donation were long overdue. They cited their deals with Ayala Land and the Ortigas Center, where the two bourses are currently located, in which they received their deeds of donation within a week of the signing of agreements.

Treasury to issue $200M worth of one-year T-bills

BY CLARISSA S. BATINO

THE BUREAU of Treasury has lined up another low-yield, dollar-denominated borrowing for the government worth $200 million involving the issuance of one-year treasury bills to be arranged by Citibank N.A. next month.

The fresh borrowing will bring to more than $1.2 billion the foreign borrowings the government has signed so far. This excludes the P30-billion dollar-linked bonds to be issued soon.

Aside from financing a projected P145-billion budget deficit, the government recently resorted to dollar-denominated and dollar-linked borrowings to help ease the pressure on the peso, which had weakened to 53.42 to $1 last Friday.

The government has so far raised $200 million from a private placement with Credit Suisse First Boston plus a similar $100 million borrowing from JP Morgan Chase.

A $500- to $800-million bond deal to be handled by Credit Suisse First Boston was scheduled in the next two months while a $220-million dollar-swap with HSBC would be released this week.

National Treasurer Sergio Edeza said the government had already tapped Citibank to handle the issuance of $100 million to $200 million worth of dollar-denominated one-year treasury bills.

The dollar-denominated treasury bills will offer a yield of 2 to 2.3 percentage points over the six-month London interbank offered rate. Last Friday, the six-month Libor stood at 3.72 percent.

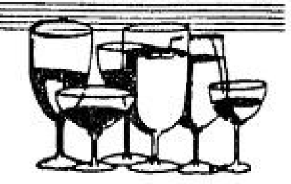
"We want to build up our cash position and the reason why it was dollar-denominated was to prevent our domestic interest rates from increasing," the national treasurer said.

Edeza said the initial size of the Citibank-arranged borrowing would be $100 million but he said the government could issue as much as $200 million if investors would buy the issue.

He said the pricing of 2 to 2.3 percentage points over Libor was at par with the yield of sovereign bonds of the same tenor being traded in the secondary market.

Malfeasance in Magallanes

COCKTALES



By Victor C. Agustin

YOU would think that the upper classes who love to lecture their poorer brethren about governance and discipline would practice in their own backyard what they preach in public.

Sadly, this is not the case in Magallanes Village.

The homeowners' association is now the subject of an investigation by the Securities and Exchange Commission after the SEC found out, belatedly, that the association had failed to file the corporate general information sheet for every year from 1981 up to 2000.

As well, the SEC is asking the Magallanes Village Association why it also failed to file the year-end financial statements from 1981 to 1994 and 1999 and 2000.

"Likewise, subject corporation has not communicated with the Commission since 1981 nor has the latter received any information regarding any activity…which would indicate that it is conducting the business for which it was organized or that it is operating," said Rosalina Tividad-Tesorio of the SEC Law and Regulation Division.

The SEC was itself caught sleeping on the job and has only come to know of the Magallanes' reportorial absences after a group of Magallanes homeowners filed a complaint.

The Magallanes protesters were apparently incensed at the MVA board when it increased the monthly association dues to P19 a square a month from P17/sqm, when Bel Air, for example, is just collecting P16/sqm.

According to the grapevine, the board now led by Theresa Mulfeld (president) and Ricardo Cardenas (vice president) had to resort to the increase because the previous board headed by Carmen Castaner had deposited a chunk of the association's operating funds, amounting to P6.5 million, in the shuttered Urban Bank.

Shoe-less and clue-less

THE Marikina shoe industry has lately been making noises about the decline of the industry, even managing to win a slot on Channel 21's "electronic townhall meeting" with President Macapagal-Arroyo last Saturday to pose a question direct to the chief

COCKTALES/ B8

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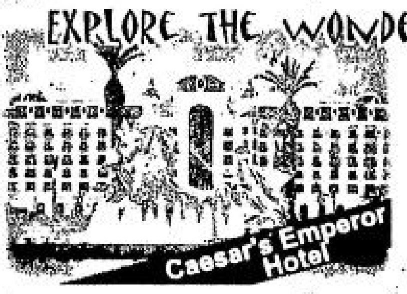

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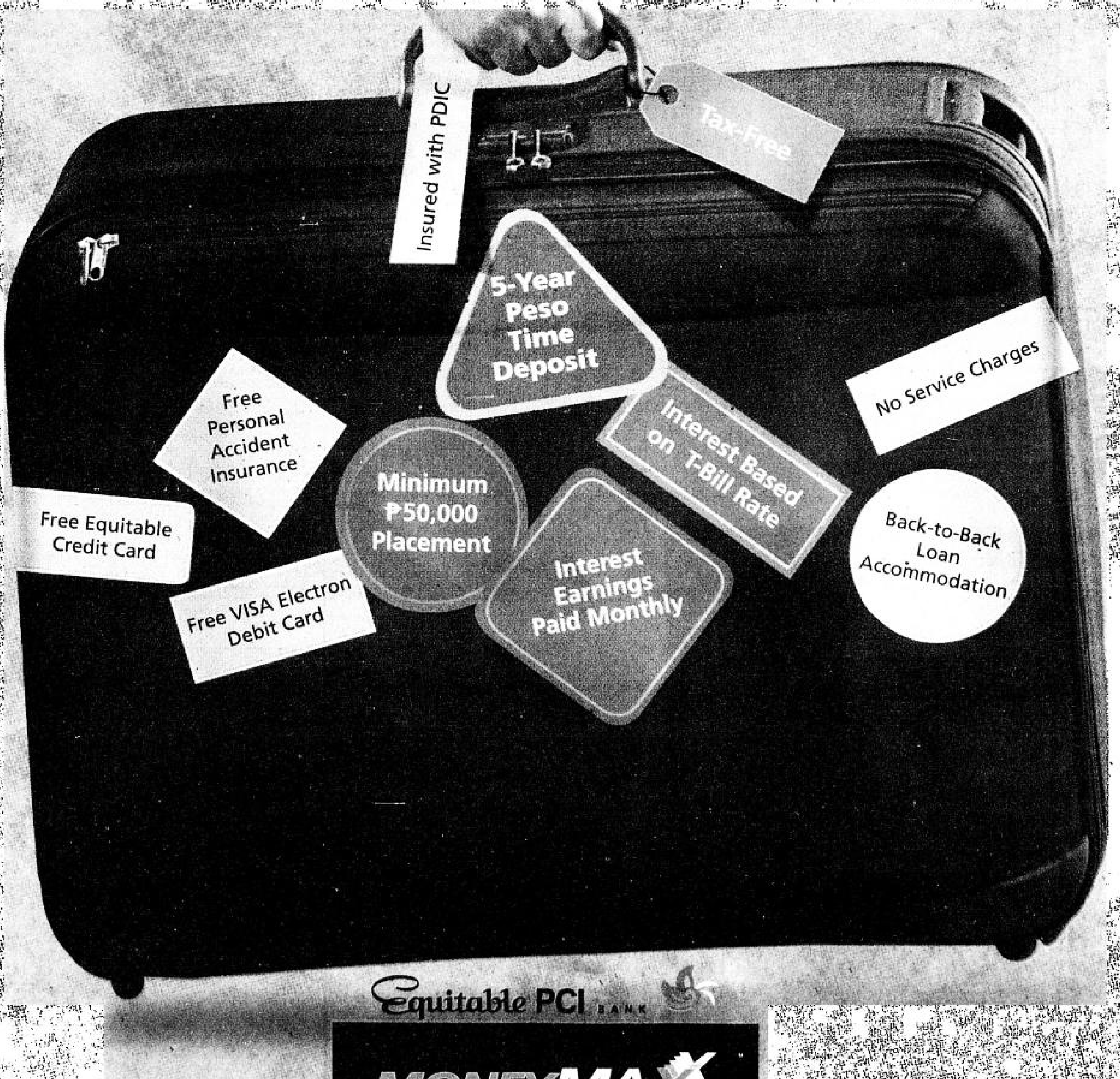
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Peso weakness seen weighing on stocks

By Doris C. Dumlao

HOUNDED by domestic and global uncertainties, local stocks are expected to remain weak as they grope for the bottom of the slump.

"It's still easier to shake the market down at this time rather than inspire it upwards," said a foreign broker, who noted that the market was in dire need of positive news.

The foreign broker, who declined to be named, said the market would still likely be "short" or dominated by sellers this week in the absence of fresh incentives. He noted that two major factors—corporate earnings and peso volatility—would continue to influence the market.

He said most of the second-quarter earnings results have started to come out and should the numbers prove to be disappointing, the market would sell down more stocks. On the other hand, he said positive surprises could boost selective issues.

On the peso side, the broker said the peso would likely firm up due to measures imposed by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas to control excess liquidity, such as the increase in the bank's reserve requirement.

Irving Ackerman, president of brokerage house I. Ackerman & Co. Inc., agreed that the local stock market was still in a very unsteady state.

"But for the first time in many months, there was a net foreign buying of P159 million on Friday. This could indicate that heavy selling pressures might begin to ease off in the near future and that maybe, foreign buyers are beginning to be attracted to a few issues," Ackerman said.

The main-share Philippine Stock Exchange composite index (Phisix) ended the week slightly lower at 1363.34, 13.02 points or 0.95 percent lower than the week-ago level. The upbeat State of the Nation address by President Macapagal failed to bring cheers to the market despite the generally warm reception from the business sector. Some bargain-hunters emerged during the week, however, lifting the index slightly on Friday.

MARKET PLAY

"We need more volume and the sooner we can have the Securities Regulation Code revised, particularly (the scrapping of) the broker–dealer (segregation) rule, we can improve market liquidity," Ackerman said.

For this week, he said selective issues might continue to attract market interest such as food and beverage giant San Miguel Corp., which is finalizing its acquisition of profitable Cosmos Bottling Corp. whose shares have likewise been sharply rising. He said some activity might also continue in the trading of First Philippine Holdings shares, which have also been doing well despite the bearish market.

"Maybe, and I say, only maybe, we've seen the worst," Ackerman said.

BPI Securities analyst Spencer Yap said the market remained at the crossroads as it hovered near the crucial 1370 level.

"It remains to be seen whether Friday's positive close can be sustained. Positive first-half results from key index issues may spur some buying but the broader market does not seem to have yet found stronger support," Yap said.

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10	EAGLERIDGE GOLF CLUB "B"	550,000.00	-
11	MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "A"	350,000.00	-
12	MANILA POLO CLUB	3,450,000.00	-
13	MANILA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB (Individual)	14,500,000.00	-
14	MANILA SOUTHWOODS GOLF CLUB "A"	650,000.00	700,000.00
15	MANILA SOUTHWOODS GOLF CLUB "B"	900,000.00	-
16	MONTEMAR BEACH CLUB	-	30,000.00
17	MT MALARAYAT "B"	450,000.00	-
18	ORCHARD GOLF CLUB "A"	-	250,000.00
19	ORCHARD GOLF CLUB "B"	-	375,000.00
20	ORCHARD GOLF CLUB "C"	600,000.00	-
21	PUNTA FUEGO	945,000.00	-
22	PHIL. COLUMBIAN ASSOCIATION	-	85,000.00
23	QUEZON CITY SPORTS CLUB	-	235,000.00
24	RIVERA GOLF CLUB "A"	250,000.00	-
25	STA. ELENA GOLF CLUB "A"	1,850,000.00	-
26	SHERWOOD HILLS "B"	350,000.00	-
27	TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS INT'L GOLF CLUB	1,000,000.00	-
28	TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS GOLF CLUB	830,000.00	-
29	VALLE VERDE COUNTRY CLUB (Individual)	200,000.00	190,000.00
30	VALLE VERDE COUNTRY CLUB (Corporate)	-	280,000.00
31	VALLEY GOLF CLUB	320,000.00	-
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Calatagan Golf Club "B"	-	125,000
Camp John Hay	325,000	350,000
Canlubang	-	850,000
Canyonwoods	-	350,000
Capitol Hills	130,000	140,000
Cebu Country Club	1,900,000	2,000,000
Celebrity Sports Club	-	Please Call
Club Filipino	-	300,000
Eagle Ridge "A"/"B"/"C"	Please Call	Please Call
Eastridge "A"	Please Call	Please Call
Evercrest "A"	-	110,000
Forest Hills "A"	200,000	235,000
Forest Hills "B"	-	250,000
Forest Hills "C"	-	400,000
Makati Sports Club "A"	350,000	370,000
Makati Sports Club "B"	-	450,000
Manila Golf (Corporate)	-	17,000,000
Manila Golf (Individual)	-	14,000,000
Manila Polo	3,200,000	Please Call
Manila Southwoods "A"	750,000	800,000
Manila Southwoods "B"	-	900,000
Metropolitan Club "A"	150,000	-
Metropolitan Club "B"	-	170,000
Mimosa Golf & Country Club (Corporate)	-	350,000
Montemar (Individual)	Please Call	-
Mt. Malarayat	-	300,000
Orchard Golf Club "A"	-	280,000
Orchard Golf Club "B"	-	350,000
Orchard Golf Club "C"	-	500,000
Philippine Columbian	-	-
Pueblo de Oro "A"/"B"/"C"	-	Please Call
Puerto Azul	-	170,000
Quezon City Sports Club	215,000	230,000
Riviera Golf & Country Club "A"	-	200,000
Royale Tagaytay "A/B/C"	Please Call	Please Call
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SEC suspends rules on stock block sales

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission has suspended its rules on block sales to make way for its approval of counterpart rules proposed by the Philippine Stock Exchange, SEC Chair Lilia Bautista said last week.

Bautista said the PSE's proposed rules liberalizing regular and special block sales should stimulate more market activity, which the regulatory agency wanted to encourage.

Block sales refer to matched trades that do not go through the automated order matching routine of the exchange's trading system but instead have been prearranged by and among the brokers' clients. These trades are entered as done deals directly into the trading system.

The SEC specifically suspended rules 30.2-8a and b, which stated that block sales not subject to tender offer may be allowed provided they were executed by the exchange at a price not inferior to the best bid offer and that all existing bids and offers were satisfied before a transaction can occur that established a new price.

A main feature of the PSE's proposed block sale rules is the disclosure of the issue, price, volume, broker, parties involved and reason for the sale of all approved block sales.

All block sales prior to being booked and confirmed to clients shall first be approved by the exchange. Regular block sales should be approved by two members of the exchange floor trading and arbitration committee, while special block sales should have the nod of four members of the committee.

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Capitol Hills	140,000
Celebrity	205,000
CC at Tagaytay Highland	400,000
Eagle Ridge A/B/C	400/590/620
Forest Hills "A"/B/C	240/260/400
Manila Golf (Indv.)/Corp	14M/16.5M
Manila Polo	3.5M
Manila Southwoods "A"/B	780,000/900,000
Metropolitan "B"	165,000
Mimosa/Royale Tagaytay	Please call
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Orchard "A"/B/C	260/350/500
Quezon City Sports	230,000
Riviera A/B/C	Please call
Sta. Elena A/B	1.85/2.1M
Sherwood	220,000
Subic Yacth (Indv.) & Corp	Please call
Tagaytay Highland Golf	950,000
Tagaytay Highland Club	400,000
Tagaytay Midlands	775,000
Valley Golf	275,000
Wack Wack	8,277,000

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Alabang A/B	Please call
Baguio Country Club	725,000
Camp John Hay Golf	325,000
Capitol Hills	135,000
Celebrity	200,000
CC at Tagaytay Highland	400,000
Eagle Ridge A/B/C	400/500
Forest Hill "A" / B / C	240/260/400
Manila Yacht	650,000
Manila Golf (Indv.)/Corp.	13.5M/15M
Manila Polo	3.5M
Manila Southwoods "A"/B	750/900
Mt. Malarayat "A"/B/C	Please call
Orchard "A"/B/C	250/350/500
Quezon City Sports	225,000
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Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Friday, July 27, 2001)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGHLOW		CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco Filipino Sav & Mort	100	100	100	100	212,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	66.5	67	66	66	312,300
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	36	36	36	36	53,800
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	206	208	205	206	32,850
Philippine National Bank	40	40	39.5	39.5	18,200
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
First Metro Invest. Corp.	235	235	230	235	200
Manulife Financial Corp.	1470	1475	1470	1475	1,820
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1310	1310	1300	1305	7,450
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	38	38	37.5	37.5	2,400
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.47	0.47	0.47	0.47	230,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	670	670	660	660	830
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.038	0.038	0.035	0.035	5,000,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.49	0.49	0.48	0.49	40,400,000
Piltel	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	100,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	10,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	670	670	665	665	48,270
Ivantage Corp.	0.73	0.73	0.73	0.73	20,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.034	0.034	0.033	0.034	30,300,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	37.5	37.5	37	37	1,100
Manila Electric Co. B	46.5	47	46	46.5	664,600
Petron Corp.	1.9	1.92	1.86	1.86	2,678,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.04	2.14	2.04	2.14	2,874,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	10,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	200,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.22	1.22	1.22	1.22	157,000
Union Cement Corp.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1,093,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.04	2.06	2.02	2.02	190,000
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	5.3	5.6	5.3	5.4	7,220,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.5	13.5	13.5	13.5	13,700
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	27	28	27	28	73,700
RFM Corp.	2.24	2.4	2.24	2.32	6,610,000
San Miguel Corp. A	43	43.5	43	43	187,500
San Miguel Corp. B	56	57.5	56	57	840,300
Universal Robina Corp.	4.9	5	4.9	5	3,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.71	0.71	0.7	0.7	180,000
Ayala Corp.	6.4	6.4	6.3	6.3	1,534,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.44	1.46	1.44	1.46	315,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	10.75	11	10.75	11	700
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	1.18	1.22	1.1	1.18	63,152,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	84,000,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	50,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.68	1.72	1.68	1.72	879,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	20,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	100,000
Ebecom Holdings Inc.	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	300,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.044	0.044	0.044	0.044	100,000
Fil-Estate Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	40,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	120,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	31	31	30	30.5	125,200
Global Equities Inc.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	20,000
Ionics Inc.	10.75	10.75	10.5	10.5	48,000
Ipeople Inc.	1.12	1.12	1.12	1.12	22,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.98	2.02	1.98	2	316,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	30,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.69	0.7	0.69	0.69	390,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	100,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.44	0.44	0.44	0.44	920,000
Philtread Holdings Corp.	4.4	4.9	4.4	4.9	13,000
Philtread Hdgs. Corp. B	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	5,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.44	0.44	0.44	0.44	80,000
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	6	6	6	6	179,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.25	0.26	0.245	0.26	1,290,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.32	0.34	0.3	0.32	6,380,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Corro-Coat Inc.	1.44	1.44	1.44	1.44	75,000
Music Corp.	1.64	1.66	1.64	1.64	260,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	70,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.09	300,000
Central Azucar Don Pedro	0.87	0.87	0.86	0.86	60,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	14.25	15	14.25	15	14,700
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.51	0.51	0.51	0.51	2,660,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.48	0.49	0.48	0.48	390,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.47	0.48	0.47	0.47	1,220,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	140,000
Philippine Racing Club	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2	5,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
Banco Filipino-Conv.	100	100	100	100	39,300
Cosmos Bottling Corp.-Pref	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.5	13,000
Globe Telecom Hldg. (Pdr)	690	690	690	690	300
Omico Corp. Warrant	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	11,000,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10	10	10	10	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,600
PLDT (10% Pref) Series X	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	-	-	-	-	-
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,600
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10	10	10	10	1,000
Philweb.Com Inc.-Warrants	0.017	0.017	0.016	0.017	32,000,000
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	7	7	7	7	240,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	4.85	4.95	4.85	4.95	7,754,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.23	0.23	400,000
Cityland Development Corp.	3	3	3	3	60,000
Cebu Prop. Vent B	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	100,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.23	0.25	0.23	0.245	1,300,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	500,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.96	1.98	1.96	1.96	3,665,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	2.02	2.02	2.02	2.02	2,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.09	800,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.5	6.5	6.4	6.4	1,212,000
UrbanCorp.Realty Dev. Inc.	0.43	0.43	0.43	0.43	70,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	10,000,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044	5,000,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	5,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines A	0.045	0.048	0.045	0.048	16,400,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.16	0.17	0.16	0.165	1,240,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.175	0.175	0.175	0.175	250,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.0042	0.0044	0.004	0.004	144,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.0044	0.0044	0.0042	0.0044	172,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.021	0.021	0.02	0.02	1,200,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	500,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	2,000,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	16,600,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044	18,000,000
Pacifica	0.016	0.016	0.016	0.016	3,000,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	100,000
Vulcan Ind'l.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	60,000

CURRENCIES

July 27, 2001

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.139082	1.000000	53.5380
Japan	Yen	0.009212	0.008087	0.4330
United Kingdom	Pound	1.626837	1.428200	76.4630
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.146224	0.128370	6.8727
Switzerland	Franc	0.662180	0.581328	31.1231
Canada	Dollar	0.743041	0.652316	34.9237
Singapore	Dollar	0.632121	0.554939	29.7103
Australia	Dollar	0.579096	0.508388	27.2181
Bahrain	Dinar	3.021598	2.652661	142.0182
Kuwait	Dinar	N/A	N/A	N/A
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.303756	0.266667	14.2768
Brunei	Dollar	0.625457	0.549089	29.3971
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000114	0.000100	0.0054
Thailand	Baht	0.024949	0.021903	1.1726
UAE	Dirham	0.310207	0.272331	14.5801
Korea	Won	0.000883	0.000775	0.0415
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.877900	47.0010
Germany	Mark	0.511292	0.448863	24.0312
France	Franc	0.152450	0.133835	7.1653
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453781	0.398374	21.3281
Austria	Schilling	0.072672	0.063799	3.4157
Belgium	Franc	0.024790	0.021763	1.1651
Italy	Lire	0.000516	0.000453	0.0243
Finland	Markka	0.168188	0.147652	7.9050
Portugal	Escudo	0.004988	0.004379	0.2344
Spain	Peseta	0.006010	0.005276	0.2825
Luxemburg	Franc	0.024790	0.021763	1.1651
Ireland	Punt	1.269738	1.114703	59.6790

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CLUBS	ASKED Price
ALABANG "A"	1,800,000
CANLUBANG	875,000
CC @ TAGAYTAY	470,000
MAKATI SPORTS "A"/"B"	.43M/.45M
MANILA GOLF (CORP.)	17,500,000
MANILA GOLF (INDV.)	14,500,000
MANILA SOUTHWOODS "A"	850,000
MANILA POLO CLUB	3,800,000
MIMOSA (CORP)	390,000
MT MALARAYAT "A"	500,000
ORCHARD "A"/"B"/"C"	.28M/.55M
RIVIERA "A" / "B"	.25M/.425M
STA. ELENA "A"	1,990,000
SUBIC BAY YACHT (CORP.)	Call now
TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS	800,000

Share Swapping: Please Call

CLUBS	BID Price
ALABANG "A"	1,720,000
CALATAGAN "A"	110,000
CELEBRITY CLUB	200,000
EAGLERIDGE "C"	400,000
MANILA SOUTHWOODS "A"	700,000
MANILA SOUTHWOODS "B"	900,000
METROPOLITAN "A"	160,000
MT. MALARAYAT "C"	Call now
PUNTA FUEGO	Call now
QUEZON CITY SPORTS "A"	220,000
RIVIERA "A"	200,000
STA. ELENA "B"	2,200,000
VALLE VERDE	180,000
WACK WACK GOLF	Call now

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ALABANG CC "A"	25,000	MIMOSA (INDIV)	5,000
CANLUBANG	55,000	RIVIERA "A"	5,000
MANILA GOLF*	500,000	STA. ELENA "A"	65,000
MANILA SOUTHWOODS "A"	Call now	WACK WACK	100,000

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Alabang A	1,850,000	Pls. Call
Baguio CC	Pls. Call	Pls. Call
Capitol Hills	140,000	125,000
Camp John Hay	350,000	Pls. Call
Canyon Woods	400,000	-
Celebrity Sports	205,000	Pls. Call
The Country Club	7,000,000	-
Eagleridge-A	450,000	375,000
Eagleridge-B	550,000	Pls. Call
Evercrest	135,000	-
Filipinas Golf	350,000	300,000
Fontana C	140,000	-
Fontana D	90,000	-
Forest Hills A	240,000	Pls. Call
Malarayat	450,000	Pls. Call
Manila Golf	15,000,000	-
Manila Polo	3,500,000	3,000,000
Manila Southwoods A	800,000	Pls. Call
Manila Southwoods B	900,000	-
Mimosa A	200,000	-
Mimosa C2	300,000	-
Orchard	330,000	Pls. Call
Riviera	250,000	-
Sherwood	250,000	-
Sta. Elena	2,000,000	1,800,000
Subic Golf	310,000	Pls. Call
Tagaytay CC	450,000	-
Tagaytay Midlands	820,000	-
Tagaytay Highlands	1,100,000	900,000
Tivoli Royale	230,000	Pls. Call
Valle Verde	190,000	-
Wack-wack	8,500,000	8,000,000

Playing Rights available lessor

Alabang	60,000	Tagaytay CC	40,000
Eagleridge	50,000	Tagaytay Midlands	60,000
Orchard	Best Buy!	Tagaytay Highlands	50,000
Manila Southwoods	50,000	Wack-wack	90,000

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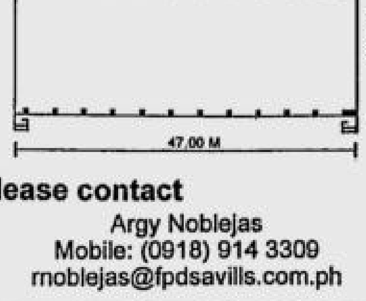

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Keppel unit, Lucio Tan seen joining Highlands project

By Doris C. Dumlao

BIG foreign and local investors are keen on joining the group of retail tycoon Henry Sy in a joint venture deal being hatched with property and gaming firm Belle Corp. for the multibillion-peso development of idle land in leisure estate Tagaytay Highlands.

INQUIRER sources said at least three investors have agreed in principle to join the development: Keppel Land Inc., the local property unit of the Keppel group of Singapore; tobacco magnate Lucio Tan, and Geronimo Velasco, chair of publicly listed Republic Glass Holdings Corp. and the former energy minister during the Marcos regime.

The sources said the fourth investor—US-based investment bank Goldman Sachs—has expressed interest but has yet to commit to the project.

The plan is for Belle to spin off more than 600 hectares of core property assets, consisting of subdivision lots and unsold condominium units in Tagaytay Highlands International Golf Club Inc. in Tagaytay City, Cavite and Tagaytay Midlands Golf Club Inc. in Batangas, into a newly created subsidiary called Highlands Prime Leisure Properties Inc.

The source said the investors were simply awaiting Sy, who will anchor the new development, to sign the joint venture deal with Belle Corp. The patriarch of SM Prime Holdings Inc., operator of the biggest shopping mall chain in the country that has a 25-percent stake in Belle.

Highlands Prime, which will have an authorized capital of P3 billion, will initially be 100-percent owned by Belle. However, a substantial stake would be sold to a strategic partner while another 10 percent would be offered to Belle's existing shareholders and to the public through a maiden offering originally targeted within the third quarter of this year.

Highlands Prime, with the financial muscle from the Sy-led investor group, is thus envisioned to continue the development in Tagaytay and Batangas over a 50-year master plan. The new development is estimated to cost P4 billion to P5 billion over the medium-term.

The SM group is considering to fold in its other leisure estate developments into the joint venture. It is now developing a 6,000-hectare lot in Hacienda Looc in Batangas into a residential resort similar to the Metro Pacific group's Punta Fuego as well as another vast property across its Taal Vista Hotel in Tagaytay.

The SM group's senior vice president Henry Sy Jr. earlier said the group was strategically positioning itself in the leisure estate business but would not want to risk locking in huge resources in such projects specially now that the real estate sector has yet to recover from the doldrums.

"Highlands Prime is a very good project. We just want to put a substantial meaningful investment but I don't think we'd take over," he said.

The younger Sy confirmed that there was a good possibility that Hacienda Looc would be folded into Highlands Prime because "both are catering to the same (AB) market."

Belle, for its part, is embarking on the spin-off strategy to raise funds and retire debts, consisting of $86.5 million (of which $68.5 million represented outstanding floating rate notes) in dollar debt and another P2 billion owed to several local lenders.

Aside from the FRNs and the local debts, Belle owes German lender Deutsche Bank a bilateral debt of $17 million, although this has already been restructured in the past.

Last May, Belle sought a three-month moratorium on the servicing of these P6.3 billion in debts while bracing for the delay in the signing of the definitive agreement with the Sy-led consortium. The debt relief was intended to pave the way for the restructuring of the foreign component of its total obligations and give Belle some breathing space amid the difficult economic conditions.

The FRNs were the borrowings causing the biggest dent on the company's cash flow and would need to be restructured over the 90-day grace period. However, all the creditors were requested to grant the reprieve in the interest of fairness and uniformity.

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CDO issued on G. Cosmos

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission issued last week a cease and desist order on G. Cosmos Philippines Inc. for violating the country's Securities Regulation Code, particularly the provisions that prohibit the sale of securities not registered with the regulatory agency.

G. Cosmos Phils., through nationwide television and print ads, promotes the salvation of the world through a supposed high-yielding instrument based on an aggressive advertising campaign of mail-order products sold in Japan.

Based on complaints filed with the SEC, G. Cosmos Phils. failed to deliver on promises that investors would receive 30 percent of profit as advertised to retirees, pensioners and businessmen who were assured of earning as much as P30, 000 to P50,000 a month. A member was also assured of getting 5 percent of the profit of other recruits.

The SEC was also investigating reports that Ogami has a criminal record overseas.

SEC documents gathered indicate that G. Cosmos Phils. had engaged in the business of ad planning and production and is an ad agency affiliated with a Tokyo-based company G. Cosmos Co. Ltd.

An SEC official said that G. Cosmos has recruited 20,000 members who were required to pay a one-time membership fee of P3,500 to P6,000 a year. G. Cosmos Phils. operates by collecting money for advertising from the average consumer for its mail order sales business. The money collected is used to conduct mail order sales in Japan through newspaper, television or magazine ads. Profits are paid directly to the people who have paid for the advertising costs. Advertising of various products is done through the company's affiliates in Japan.

The individual who pays the advertising cost of a product receives his or her income on the fifth to 10th day or 20th to 25th day of the month depending on the date of receipt of the statement of account. A person investing in G. Cosmos must execute a G. System Membership Agreement, which embodies details of his investment in the company.

In its cease-and-desist order, the SEC noted that the agreement signed by investors of G. Cosmos Phils. constituted an investment contract, which should be registered with the government agency.

The Securities Regulation Code describes an investment contract as a transaction or scheme for the investment of money where the investment is made in a common enterprise and that there is an expectation of profits and such profits arise primarily from the efforts of others.

Corporate records of G. Cosmos Phils. showed that the company's authorized and paid-up capital was P1 million and P700,000, respectively. Based on the same records, the company is holding office at 16/F Richville Corporate Tower 1107 Industry Street, Madrigal Business Park, Muntinlupa City.

G. Cosmos Phils.' incorporators are Ogami, Yokoi Takahiro, Anselma Calima, Dolores Cuneta and Wilfredo Cuneta.

Investors urge DOJ to act on Wincorp case

MANY of them having sleepless nights worrying over how to meet day-to-day expenses and medical bills, a large group of investors of Westmont Investment Corp. are pressing the Department of Justice to stop dragging its feet and resolve the complaint filed by the Securities and Exchange Commission against the investment house.

In a meeting with INQUIRER Saturday morning, members of the 333 Investors Group Association Inc., which had about P500 million trapped in Wincorp, questioned why the justice department was taking longer than the period prescribed in deciding the case against Wincorp.

333 Investors Association chair Oscar Gankee said the group was willing to give the DOJ until Aug. 15 this year to resolve the case, after which the group would consider possible mass actions and public appeals to the President to pressure the department to do its duty.

Augustin Vestil, assisting lawyer for the investors group, pointed out that the SEC case against Wincorp filed with the DOJ was already submitted for resolution last March 29. Under the rules, the DOJ should resolve the case within 45 to 60 days after the submission.

In a complaint affidavit filed with the DOJ last year, the SEC accused Wincorp directors and officers, including its former chair, John Espiritu, of violating the country's securities laws when they failed to register an investment scheme with the SEC.

The SEC accused Espiritu, son of former Finance Secretary Edgardo Espiritu, and Wincorp directors Henry Cua Loping, Simeon Cua, Manuel Tankiansee and Alfonso Reyno III of fraud for enticing about a thousand investors to place some P7 billion that Wincorp re-lent to 19 companies, mostly owned by the younger Espiritu and his father's associates. These companies have defaulted on these loans.

Wincorp president and director Antonio Ong has admitted that Wincorp is 99-percent owned by Unioil Resources and Holdings Co. Inc. and that 82 percent of Unioil's stockholders are also borrowers of the company. *Elena R. Torrijos*

Cocktales

(From page B5)

executive herself.

The President, in her best diplomatic self, provided a clue to the industry's decline: the local industry lost its guaranteed US sales and could not compete with its foreign competitors after Washington finally cut off the Philippine quota.

One leading shoe chain owner, who asked not to be identified, told Cocktales he has steadily switched his chain's orders to mainland China if he wants his business to stay alive.

Reason? Shorter production cycle – two weeks as against 60 days from Marikina, consistent quality, and, despite the freight and customs duties, cheaper unit cost.

Short takes

- THE supplier- group behind the aborted test flights of a Singaporean-assembled spy plane over Basilan is led by retired General Victor Mayo, Jose Belizano, and retired Admiral De Leon.

This year, the Mayo group has reportedly cornered some P1.8-billion worth of business from the armed forces.

- TIMOTHY Harbert, the president of State Street Global Advisors, the second largest investment fund in the United States with over $750 billion under its management, is in town to see President Macapagal-Arroyo, Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho, and the heads of SSS/GSIS.

Harbert apparently wants to make a pitch to manage the SSS/GSIS funds that the two GFIs plan to invest overseas.

The Boston-based executive is here on invitation of businessman Jose Marcel Panlilio, whose hotel holdings could themselves use a fresh injection of equity.

Heard through the grapevine

NEWLY-minted Congressman Mark Jimenez has been telling friends that he has acquired two of the four penthouses at the Pacific Plaza condominium on Ayala Avenue from taipan Henry Sy.

The adjoining, two-level penthouses were never finished and have remained unoccupied after the Sy boys decided that they would rather raise their children on houses with expansive lawns.

(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com)

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3. The 5 hour trial period is valid only within 5 days from activation.

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   - Any recent proof of billing (utility, cable, credit card, cellular phone, pager, etc.)
2. A Pacific Internet Customer Care representative shall process the account upon receiving the completed requirements, and will call the customer to confirm his/her user name and password.
3. Bonus hours will be credited to the 3rd, 6th, and 9th month of the subscriber's Pacific Internet account (5 hours per month). Activation fee worth P935.00 will be waived.
4. Excess usage of the internet account will be charged P66.00 per hour, or P16.50 per 15 minute block.
5. Non-payment of dues shall result in suspension. Suspension within the promo period forfeits free hours from this promo.
6. No downgrades during the promo period will be allowed.
7. No carryovers of unused hours will be allowed.
8. This promo cannot be combined with any other bundling promo.
9. Minimum sign-up period is 12 months.

Promo period is from July 1 to August 31, 2001.

Promo available to non-Pacific Internet subscribers only. Only one promo package is allowed per printer purchase. Promo can be claimed within sixty days after the promo period.

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2020 Series of 2001

Napocor earnings from one-day power sales jump 46%

By Ronnel W. Domingo

NATIONAL Power Corp. reported Friday it earned P445.8 million from its one-day power sales scheme from January to June this year, up 45.92 percent from the year-ago figure of P305.5 million.

Alberto C. Guanzon, chief of Napocor's power network business department, said the earnings brought the state firm's cumulative revenues from the scheme to P1.7 billion since it was started in June 1998.

Guanzon noted that the increase in revenues was due to the brisk daily bidding for Napocor's unused capacity.

"The first semester earnings also represent almost half of our full-year revenue target of P1 billion," Guanzon said in a statement.

He added that sales got a boost from the Manila Electric Co.'s aggresive campaign for its "embedded" customers to take part in the program.

THIS series on Philippine Banking history is published in the business section of the **Philippine Daily Inquirer** in commemoration of the 150th year of the Bank of the Philippine Islands (BPI), *formerly El Banco Español Filipino de Isabel 2* (The Spanish Filipino Bank of Isabel II), the first bank to be established in the Philippines and Southeast Asia.

PHILIPPINE BANKING

Did you know?

... that various coins were in circulation in the Philippines during the latter years of the Spanish regime?

In the 19th century, coins of various sizes and origin found their way in the Philippines and became accepted means of exchange. These were Spanish, Philippine and Mexican (as well as other Latin American) coins, in silver and gold of varying fineness.

But complications arose when an intrinsically lower-value Mexican silver currency officially became part of the Philippine currency system in the 1870s. Hoarding of the gold coins became common, and replaced by the debased Mexican coins smuggled into the Philippines.

To curb the growing confusion and monetary instability, the insular government pulled out in 1886 all Mexican money in circulation in the Philippines.

150 YEARS

DIVIDEND NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Board of Directors of Sun Life Financial Services of Canada Inc. has declared a dividend of $0.12 per share, in Canadian currency, on the outstanding common shares of the Corporation payable on September 30, 2001 to shareholders of record as at the close of business on August 27, 2001.

By order of the Board of Directors
James E. Henkel
Vice-President & Corporate Secretary

July 25, 2001
Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Sun Life Financial

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INFORMATION SESSIONS

Where you will meet professors, alumni and students to get a better understanding of the program...

Hong Kong
Date: 15 August 2001 (Wednesday)
Venue: Pacific Place Conference Centre
L5 One Pacific Place
88 Queensway, Admiralty
Time: 6:30 – 8 p.m.

Philippines
Date: 13 August 2001 (Monday)
Venue: Makati Shangri-la
Ayala Avenue Corner
Makati Avenue, Makati City
Time: 6:30 – 8 p.m.

Taiwan
Date: 20 August 2001 (Monday)
Venue: Far Eastern Plaza Hotel
Taipei Metro, 201 Tun Hwa S. Rd.
Section 2, Taipei
Time: 6:30 – 8 p.m.

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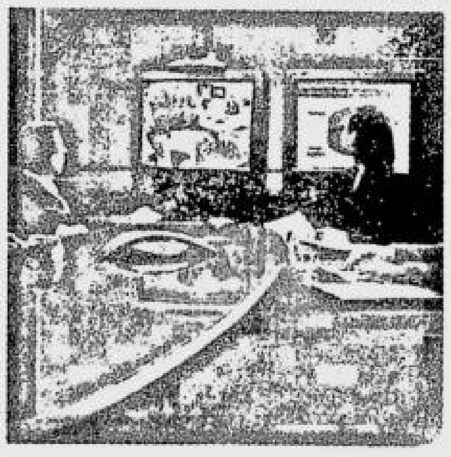

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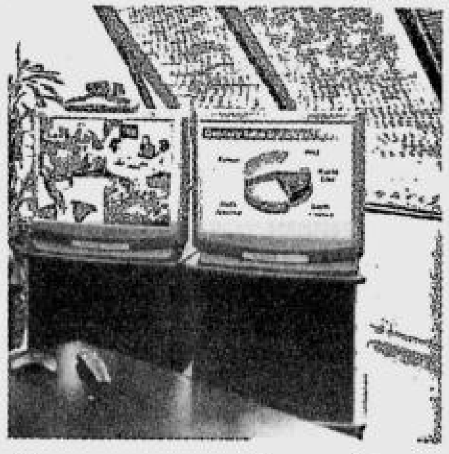

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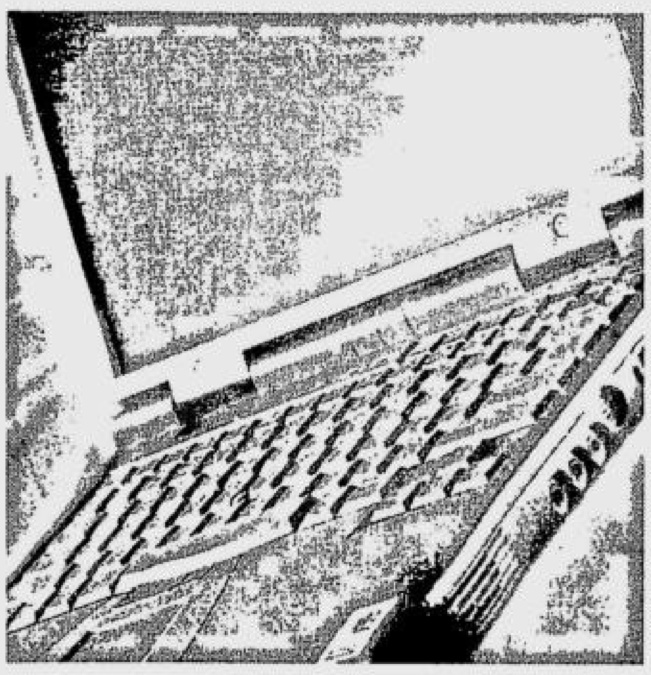

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Dell Recommends Windows 2000 Professional for Business

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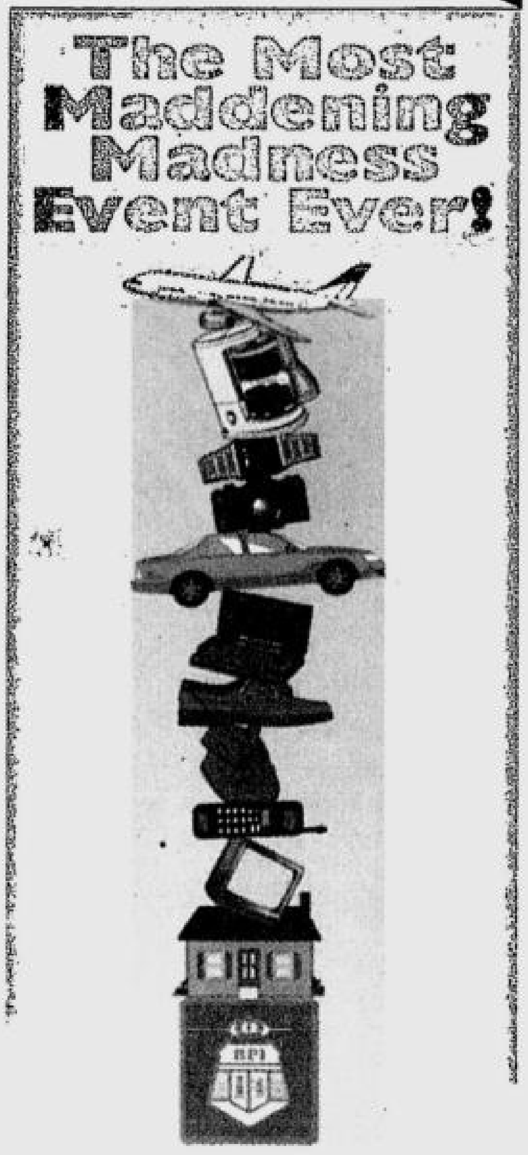

The Most Maddening Madness Event Ever!
BPI

BPI's FULLY-LOADED MADNESS

Our 150th Anniversary Special

Mad about BPI's Fully-Loaded Madness

THE BANK of the Philippine Islands (BPI) is making waves on its 150th anniversary this year. BPI's "Fully-Loaded Madness" affords clients the chance to enjoy a total BPI experience. BPI's "Fully-Loaded Madness" is happening at the Glorietta from July 23 to Aug. 2.

This is tagged as "the greatest Madness ever" and to prove this point, the Glorietta is housing together for the first time fully-loaded promos, offers, discounts, prizes and surprises.

Five booths carry BPI's products and services: Fully-Loaded e-Banking, Fully-Loaded Shopping, Fully-Loaded Coverage, Fully-Loaded Luxury, and Fully-Loaded Gifts.

The Fully-Loaded e-Banking booth is presenting BPI's full range of Internet banking services via BPI Express Online. The Fully-Loaded Shopping booth is offering up to 70 percent off on shopping items used with the Power of 3—BPI Express Cash, Express Teller's EPS and BPI Credit Cards. Over at the Fully-Loaded Gifts booth, one can avail of a Happy Family Housing Loan and bring home appliance and furniture for free. At the Fully-Loaded Coverage corner, clients can enjoy special rates and get free gifts from Ayala Life, FGU, Ayala Health and Ayala Plans. There is the brand new Honda Civic on display at the Fully-Loaded Luxury area.

Insurance innovation, excellence and quality

THE SUCCESS of any business is often gauged on its longevity. To say that the Bank of the Philippine Islands (BPI) has attained success would be a gross understatement. Now celebrating its 150th year, BPI has managed to become the market leader, thanks to its quality products and services, exceptional customer care and innovations that continue to become industry benchmarks.

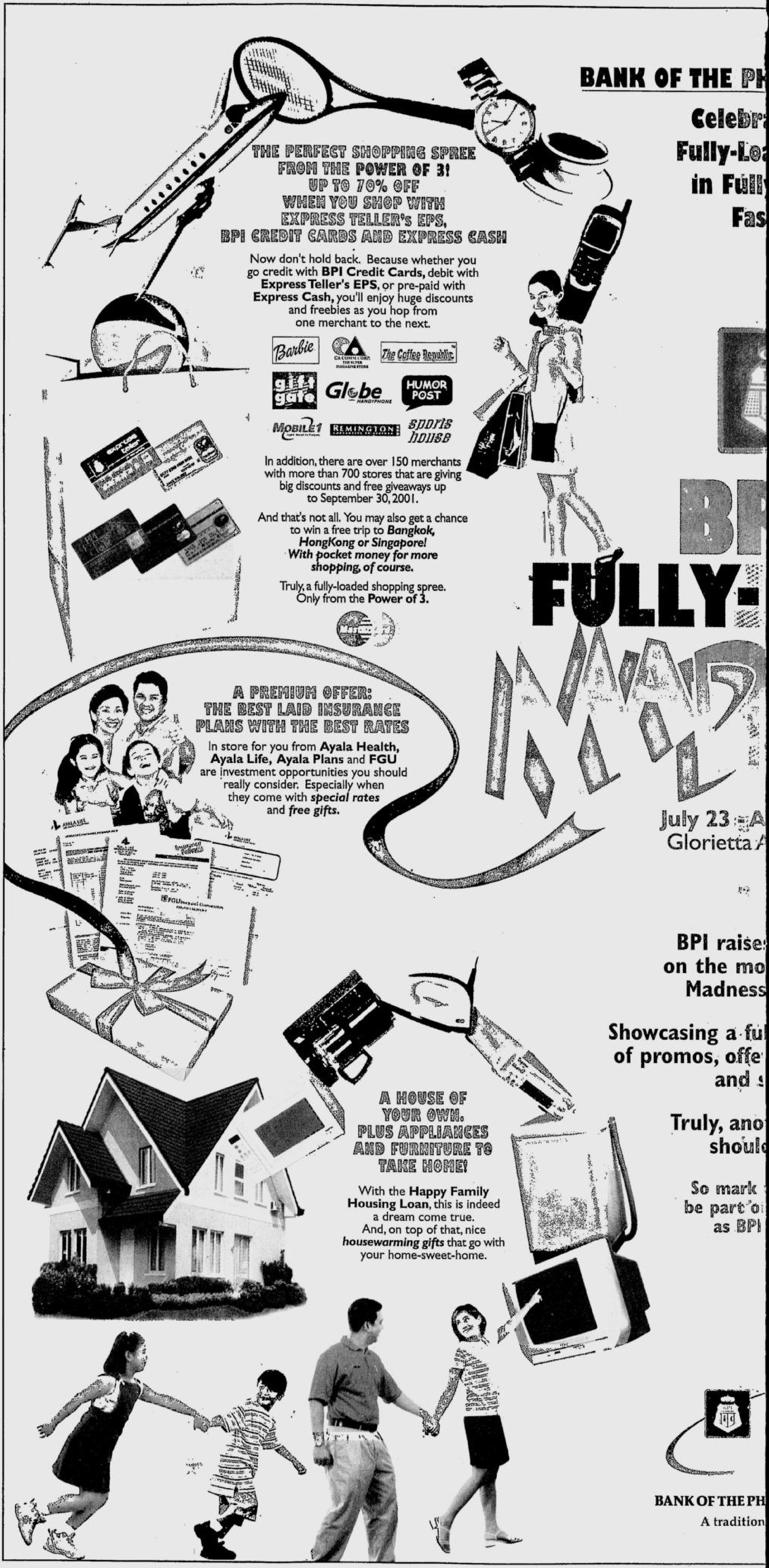
BPI set another first when it merged with the Ayala Insurance Companies—Ayala Life Assurance Inc., Ayala Plans, Ayala Health Care Inc., FGU Insurance Corp. and Universal Reinsurance Corp. collectively known as the BPI Insurance Companies, they will extend BPI's traditional product span into the insurance area, thereby heralding "bancassurance" in its most genuine form.

Among the many products in the bancassurance format today is the Express Term Life Plus Insurance from Ayala Life Assurance Inc. Another product is FGU Insurance Corporation's Express Auto Insurance and the Express Fire Insurance, which require no fire inspections for pre-approved subdivisions. Ayala Life recently launched its latest insurance products that best cater to the needs of the market. Aspire, Advance, Acquire, Achieve and Access are aimed at helping Filipino families live the privileged life.

Ayala Plan's GiftEd Plan is renowned for its quality education and pension plans, while the Ayala Pension Plan is the preferred plan of those who wish to have a fruitful retirement. This year, the company opens its customer service hotline--753-7777 and a sales counselor will be sent to visit them.

Ayala Health Care has a vast network of 200 accredited hospitals with around 2,500 accredited doctors and specialists nationwide. It delivers managed care services to over 600 corporate accounts with a total plan member base of 80,000.

FGU Insurance Corporation has a wealth of non-life insurance experience which started as early as 1913. Gearing up for even greater accessibility, FGU created another breakthrough when it launched the country's first fully transactional and fully secure insurance website called www.fguonline.com.



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WHEN YOU SHOP WITH
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Now don't hold back. Because whether you go credit with **BPI Credit Cards,** debit with **Express Teller's EPS**, or pre-paid with **Express Cash,** you'll enjoy huge discounts and freebies as you hop from one merchant to the next.

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The Coffee Republic
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Globe Handyphone
HUMOR POST
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REMINGTON
sports house

In addition, there are over 150 merchants with more than 700 stores that are giving big discounts and free giveaways up to September 30, 2001.

And that's not all. You may also get a chance to win a free trip to ***Bangkok, HongKong or Singapore! With pocket money for more shopping, of course.***

Truly, a fully-loaded shopping spree. Only from the **Power of 3.**

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In store for you from **Ayala Health, Ayala Life, Ayala Plans** and **FGU** are investment opportunities you should really consider. Especially when they come with ***special rates*** and ***free gifts.***

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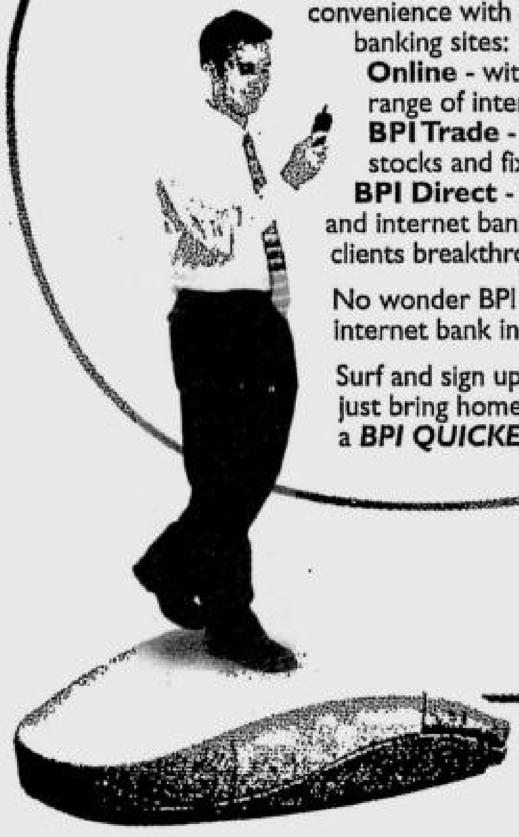
No wonder BPI was awarded by Global Finance as the best internet bank in the Philippines.

Surf and sign up now. At the end of your visit, you might just bring home this nice souvenir: a *BPI QUICKEN CD - FREE!*



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An offer so irresistible, too tempting for you to pass up. To help you decide, why not check out the new Honda on display?

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Paying your bills can be hassle-free when you pay Check-Free! Through the ExpressTeller ATM, Express Phone or Express Online. Call and Enroll now!

And while at the MADNESS, visit the Express Phone Kiosk and find out how you can be the Lucky Caller of the Hour. *You'll win an Express Cash card loaded with P 200 - FREE!*

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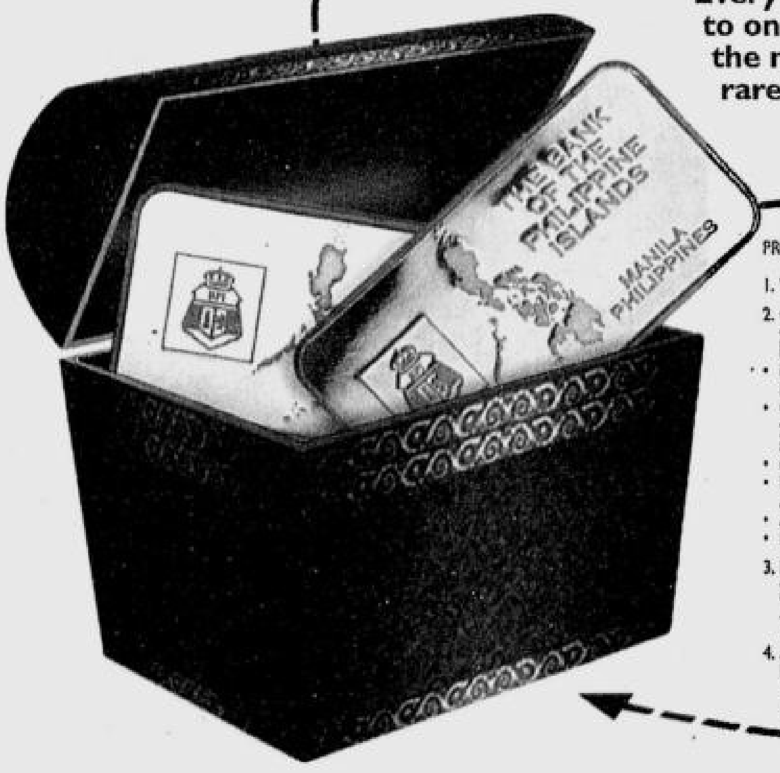
he dates and
the festivities
turns 150!

STRIKE GOLD: Get a chance to bring home the BPI 150th Anniversary Gold or Silver Ingots

Every transaction at any BPI booth entitles you to one stamp. The more stamps you have, the more your chances of winning any of these rare commemorative pieces.



PROMO MECHANICS

1. Visit BPI's Fully-Loaded Madness at the Glorietta Activity Center from July 23 to August 2, 2001
2. Get a copy of BPI's Fully-Loaded Madness Brochure at any of the booths in the Madness. Inside you'll find a map of the Madness with a stamp portion. Use this to collect stamps from the different booths as follows:
   - Merchant Booths - Every purchase using the Express Teller's EPS, BPI Express Cash or any BPI Credit Card at the participating merchants entitles you to a stamp.
   - Card Booth - Get a stamp when you apply for a BPI Credit Card or when you apply or reload your BPI Express Cash. If you are an Express Teller cardholder, you can also get a stamp when you apply to change your card to an Express Teller International.
   - e-Banking Booth - Enroll at any BPI internet banking service to get a stamp.
   - Insurance Booth - Every paid application for an insurance plan from Ayala Health, Ayala Life, Ayala Plans or FGU Insurance entitles you to a stamp.
   - Auto Loan Booth - Earn a stamp for every auto loan application.
   - Housing Loan Booth - Every housing loan application entitles you to a stamp.
3. Present your brochure with stamps at the redemption booth to join our Pick-a-Prize, where you can win the grand prize of a BPI Commemorative Gold Ingot worth ₱ 40,000. The number of stamps earned will determine the number of "picks" you can make. The more stamps you collect, the greater the chances of winning!
4. All employees of BPI Unibank, its subsidiaries, and its PR and advertising agency, Image Dimensions, are disqualified from joining the promo.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. A1-0403 Series of 2001.

150 YEARS

ILIPPINE ISLANDS
of leadership

BPI EXPRESS CASH "BEST E-CARD"

The BPI Express Cash card was adjudged the 'Best Electronic Card for 2000' at the recent Annual MasterCard Asia-Pacific User Conference in Australia. The Express Cash card bested several other entries in this category for the entire Asia-Pacific region. BPI senior executive vice president Aurelio Montinola III accepted the trophy from MasterCard country head Poch Villa-Real during the launch of the 'Fully Loaded Madness' at the Glorietta. With him are (from left) BPI vice president Tessie Tan, BPI senior vice president Nita Claravall and BPI director Fernando Zobel de Ayala.

You're all invited to the biggest Madness event ever

COME to BPI's Fully Loaded Madness at the Glorietta Activity Center from July 23 to Aug. 2 and be part of our 150th anniversary special. Take advantage of fully loaded promos, prizes and surprises at the following booths:

- **Power of 3 booths—Express Teller's EPS, BPI Credit Cards and Express Cash**

Get up to 70 percent off on purchases using BPI's three payment cards—Express Teller's EPS, BPI Credit Cards and Express Cash. You'll enjoy huge discounts and freebies as you visit these merchants at the Madness: Globe HandyPhone, Gift Gate, Coffee Republic, CA Com, Barbie, Remington USA, Sports House, Humor Post and Mobile One.

The Power of 3 promo extends to establishments outside Glorietta. There are over 150 merchants with more than 700 stores where you can get special discounts and giveaways by just using your BPI card from July 23 to Sept. 30, 2001.

- **Emerging Business Booth**

The Emerging Business booth will showcase our various Internet banking services—Express Online, ExpressBills, WAP Banking, BPI Trade, ExpressLink, BPI Direct and BPI Payment Gateway. Those who will enroll will get a chance to win prizes, including a free BPI Quicken software.

- **Express Teller, Express Online and Express Phone Kiosk**

Be the first to experience transacting at our fully-unmanned kiosk, featuring Express Teller, Express Online and Express Phone. Use the Express Phone booth to enroll in Check-Free Payments and you might be the lucky caller of the hour. At stake is a free Express Cash loaded with P200!

- **Consumer Loans booths**

See the new Honda Civic on display at the Happy Family Auto Loan booth. If you have friends or relatives planning to buy a new car, tell them to check out the low interest rates on the new Honda Civic—an exclusive during the Madness.

Over at the Housing Loan booth, visitors can check out the free appliances being given away in the Happy Family Housing Loan "Easy Loan, Gifts to Own" promo.

- **Insurance booth**

FGU, Ayala Life, Ayala Plans and Ayala Health will be there to offer special rates on insurance plans, plus free gifts!

So mark the dates on your calendar—July 23 to Aug. 2, 2001—and see you at the Glorietta!

Happy Family Auto Loan's Happy Indulgence promo

FOR THE PAST two years, BPI Family Bank's Floppy Family Auto Loan has rewarded our Metro Manila clients with free resort packages with our Outrageous Outdoors promo. This promo has been a huge success since it was launched in 1999, where BPI Family Bank gave qualified clients a free overnight stay with complimentary breakfast for four (4) in leading resorts. In our latest promo run, from March 15 to June 15, 2001, the Outrageous Outdoors, in its third outburst has spread out nationwide! We included our provincial clients and expanded our prize range to hotel/resorts in Subic, Cebu, Boracay, Davao, Bacolod, La Union, Batangas and Cagayan de Oro. These vacation packages were well received by clients who readily used their new vehicles to travel to the resorts during the summer break.

Despite the end of the summer months, BPI Family Bank is not yet through in pampering our auto loan clients. From the fun outdoors, we are taking our clients to the fine indoors, with our new promo, Incredible Indulgence.

This time, we are giving out a family luxury package for a family of four that will consist not only of an overnight stay in the county's finest hotels, but also include fine dining and complimentary breakfast for the family, in any one of the following premium hotels: Manila Diamond Hotel (Roxas Boulevard), Astoria Plaza (Ortigas Center), Legenda Hotel (Subic, Olongapo), Days Hotel (Tagaytay and Batangas), Waterfront Hotel (Lahug, Cebu), L'Fisher Hotel (Bacolod City), The Marco Polo (Davao City), Pryce Plaza (Cagayan de Oro City)

It's so easy to qualify! Clients may just apply at any BPI, BPI Family Bank branch nationwide, the nearest participating auto dealer or log on to www.bpidirect.com. If the click avails of Happy Family Auto Loan with a minimum loan amount of P400,000. From Aug. 1 to Oct. 31, 2001, he gets to choose a prize package from any one of the above partner hotels.

To make it more exciting, all Metro Manila clients will also get a free one year membership from the Carsavers Auto Club. Carsavers is an Emergency Roadside Assistance and Automotive Service Association that will provide the loaned vehicle with exclusive services such as 24-hour emergency roadside assistance, premium 15 percent discounts on Ziebart Tidy Car Paint protection/detailing services, unlimited body and underchassis washing services and unlimited vehicle safety check-up services.

Only BPI Family Bank Happy Family Auto Loan offers features that can out-perform other auto loans with its fast one-day credit decision, easy P30,000 monthly income requirement and affordable low, low interest rates!

The best auto loan package, the best luxury family package and the best car-care package, rolled into to one, with BPI Family Bank Happy Family Auto Loan.

Truly, an Incredible Indulgence!

INFOTECH

LEO MAGNO, Editor

UN report says IT, communications promote human development

BY ERWIN LEMUEL G. OLIVA

"THE TECHNOLOGY divide does not have to follow the income divide. Throughout history, technology has been a powerful tool for human development and poverty reduction," the Human Development Report 2001 of the United Nations Development Program stated.

This report was presented at a forum last week in Manila.

Contrary to earlier beliefs that only rich countries would gain access from technological innovations, the report said that benefits gained from investments in technology would later trickle down to to poor nations.

"It is often thought that people gain access to technological innovations—more effective medicine or transportation, the telephone or the Internet—once they have more income. This is true. But the process can be reversed: investments in technology can equip people with better tools and make them more productive and prosperous," the report said.

Under the New Economy, information could be rapidly spread at low cost to people through ICT. The Internet is now breaking barriers of geography. Distance education or telemedicine are innovations that will lead to better and healthier lives for Filipinos, the report added.

The report also said that ICT provides powerful new ways for citizens to demand accountability from their governments and in the use of public resources.

The report, for instance, cited the role of ICT in the ouster of former President Joseph Estrada during Edsa II early this year.

"Technology can cause discontinuous change: a single innovation can quickly and significantly change the course of an entire society," the report said.

With President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's call for the end of corruption in government in a year, the Internet, the mobile telephone (specifically SMS) and other technologies now enable Filipinos to communicate and obtain information in ways never before available, opening up opportunities to influence government decisions that directly affect their lives.

"Technology is a tool, not just a reward, for growth and development," the report suggested.

When Ms Macapagal started talking about information and communications technology during her State of the Nation Address (Sona), she knew that this industry would mean more jobs and eventually wealth, for Filipinos.

In her Sona, she believes that ICT is the source of "fast-growing industries where high-value jobs are most plentiful."

Lest she be accused of propagating empty promises again, the UNDP report acknowledged that ICT opens new employment and export opportunities.

The report pointed out that India's revenues gained from the ICT industry increased from $150 million in 1990 to $4 billion in 1999.

This happened considering that technology in that country is unevenly diffused. Most of the wealth created by the ICT industry comes from Bangalore, a small enclave of high-tech companies in a country where the average adult receives only 5.1 years of education, adult illiteracy is 44 percent, electricity consumption is half that in China, and teledensity is 28 telephones for every 1,000 people.

The report, however, admitted that technological progress is often the response to market pressures, and not the needs of poor, marginalized people.

Meanwhile, most research and development activities worldwide are still concentrated in rich countries.

Technology remains unevenly diffused in the world. According to the report, 79 percent of the world's Internet users come from the rich countries. Africa, for instance, has lower international bandwidth than Sao Paulo, Brazil, while Latin America's pipes to the global Internet is as big as that of Seoul of the Republic of South Korea.

Access to funding is also concentrated in North America where venture capitalists have thrived. In developing countries, there is little access to funding. This problem is often compounded by the lack of intellectual property protection, which often discourages private investors, the report said.

Also, huge inequalities exist between countries on access to skills and education for effective use of technology, the report added.

"Developing may gain especially high rewards from new technologies, but they also face severe challenges in managing the risks," the report said.

NCC chief insists on 'status quo'

BY ERWIN OLIVA

THE EMBATTLED chief of the National Computer Center (NCC), Ramon "Ike" Señeres, holds on to his post despite the expiration of the temporary restraining order (TRO) he filed barring presidential appointee Delfin "Jay" Sabido IX from taking over his post.

The TRO expired on Thursday, "technically" forcing out the incumbent director general from the government agency.

In a letter issued by the Office of the Solicitor General (OSG) to Science Secretary Estrella Alabastro, Assistant Solicitor General Antonio Villamor said that the 60-day TRO issued by the Court of Appeals on May 24 has expired.

In the same letter, Villamor said that "no hearing was conducted on the motion for preliminary injunction nor was any order granting it" within the 60-day period. The TRO is "deemed automatically vacated," he said. The TRO ordered Sabido and other respondents acting for him to "cease and desist" from removing Señeres from the NCC, thereby preventing him from exercising his duties in the said office.

In a telephone interview, Señeres acknowledged that the TRO has indeed expired, but maintained that he remains the incumbent.

"It's a customary practice that when the case is still in the court, status quo *pa rin*," he said.

Sabido was appointed chief of the computer agency on March 2, yet Señeres has been contesting the post, insisting on his security of tenure.

He filed a TRO at the fifth division of the Manila Court of Appeals on May 24, arguing that Sabido's appointment as director general of the NCC was "illegal."

Sabido took his oath on May 15 as the new chief of the computer agency. He was executive director of the Advanced Science and Technology Institute, an agency under the Department of Science and Technology (DOST), prior to his appointment as NCC chief.

Gloria increases IT involvement

PRESIDENT Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, giving importance to information and communications technology (ICT) which she described as the leading sector for economic growth, met Thursday in Malacañang with the officers of the Information Technology and E-Commerce Council (ITECC). Her involvement in ICT matters and the actual use of technology was further heightened Saturday when she participated in the country's an "electronic town meeting" with the President.

As chair of the ITECC, the President approved in principle the implementation of four vital ICT projects that would bring the Philippines to the knowledge economy, according to a Malacañang press statement. The ITECC is the country's highest policymaking body.

The four vital projects she mentioned were the Bonifacio IT Plaza development project, the Pagasa (Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, Astronomical Services Administration) modernization program, the Human Resource Cluster Action Plan and the Philippine Research, Education and Government Information Network (Preginet).

The Bonifacio IT Plaza development project is envisioned to be a showcase of Philippine IT capability. It will also be a physical hub and focal point for the country's IT and software industry providing entrepreneurs, enterprises and the government with globally competitive ICT infrastructure. The Pagasa six-year modernization project is needed for the establishment of regional weather forecasting centers all over the country. The Human Resources Action Plan targets 60,000 professions in three years, increasing by 10,000 starting on the fifth year, and the retooling of 100,000 teachers in five years. Meanwhile, the strategic objective of Preginet is to link the government, academe and research institutes through a nationwide broadband network to enable e-governance and improve the country's science and technology capability.

This knowledge economy project will encourage collaborative research and development in new and emerging technologies. It will also provide a platform for experimentation of innovative Internet applications and services and encourage much-needed research in these advanced areas by establishing connectivity to international research networks and to the Internet.

The decision for the President to chair the ITECC was announced during the June 26 meeting in Malacañang to fast track decisions on critical issues that should be addressed at a higher level.

Executive Order (EO) No. 18, dated May 25, 2001, was issued amending EO 264, which created the ITECC. EO 18 reconstituted the ITECC with the President as chair, the trade secretary and a private sector representative as co-chairs, and eight government and seven private sector representatives as members.

Meanwhile, Filipinos here and abroad were treated to a rare opportunity to talk to Ms Macapagal on Saturday through an electronic town meeting.

"This is a symbol that the Philippines is progressively heading toward the 21st century," said Ms Macapagal of her virtual meeting which lasted one hour and five minutes.

From the central studio of a television network, the President answered questions from selected participants hooked up through satellite. The participants, who came from various regions in the country, represented a mix of social classes.

An official of the Securities and Exchange Commission asked for Ms Macapagal's assurance to uplift the economy amid the dwindling peso.

A vegetable farmer from Baguio appealed for the immediate construction of farm-to-market roads so they can sell their harvests.

A female worker in a shoe factory in Marikina asked if the President could institute measures to protect the local shoe industry amid foreign competitors.

In response, Ms Macapagal reiterated her administration's programs outlined in her State of the Nation Address. She said she intends to fulfill her commitment to provide jobs, education, housing and food for the millions of poor Filipinos.

"Ten years from now, I hope to see a Philippines no longer mired in poverty," said Ms Macapagal when asked about her wish for the country.

INQ7.net

MACAPAGAL is stepping up her involvement in technology matters

IT firms now more wary of PR, advertising costs

HIGH-TECH firms are finding creative ways to market their products and services nowadays amid the global slowdown. Some, however, are feeling the pinch and have decided to decrease spending on marketing, particularly advertising.

RJ Maclang, marketing manager of Intel Microelectronics Philippines, admitted that Intel has decreased its marketing budget this year.

"We've had a decrease in marketing budget this year for obvious reasons. One of them is that Intel is putting its resources in other things like education and research and development. There's been a decrease in spending for marketing despite healthy PC sales during the first half of 2001," Maclang said.

Worldwide, Intel is allocating $4.2 billion on research and development activities and $7.5 billion on capital expenditures for 2001.

Asked how much was slashed from its marketing budget, Maclang said that it was in "double digits."

"We're now becoming creative... staying away from spending on advertisements and (focusing) more on non-media promotions for a targeted audience," he said.

He added that TV ads are out, but the company has recently put its money on Internet advertising.

"Our products are now being positioned for the consumer market. The Pentium 4, for instance, targets consumers. Selling to consumers requires more money, but right now our budget is limited," he added.

Cielo Narvaez, marketing communications specialist of Hewlett-Packard Philippines, for her part, pointed out that there was "not much of a change" in the company's spending on advertisements, marketing and press relations amid the glum market.

"We're more conservative with our expenses," she said.

Mae Rivera, marketing communications manager of Microsoft Philippines, shared the same view.

"The way I see it, the money we spent on advertising remained the same although we would like to be more creative. We're now big on events especially with the scheduled launch of Windows XP in the Philippines," Rivera said.

Microsoft Philippines is exploring new ways to promote its products and services in the country. But it does not mean the company is cutting down on spending on marketing, Rivera said.

"As far as I'm concerned, we have a lot of events coming this year. So we're not really scrimping," she added. "Admittedly, however, the global slowdown has generally affected everyone."

Myra Salvosa, managing director of local public relations (PR) firm The Partners Group Inc., has a different view on the matter.

The Partners Group was established in 1996, and has since been serving different clients in the high-tech industry, including Apple Philippines, Hughes Network Systems, Iberpacific, Microsoft Great Plains Business Solutions, MosCom and Siemens Inc.

She said that PR work is tougher this year because IT companies, particularly the giants, expect "quantity and quality."

"Retainers have gone down by as much as 50 percent," Salvosa said. "Our clients are now very discriminating. The company has to add value to the usual PR work. Our job does not only involve writing and releasing press releases anymore."

Salvosa, however, believes PR firms with clients in high-tech are lucky than other firms working for non-IT firms. She said that IT companies use PR firms to explain their products to people. Advertising, to IT companies, is becoming a secondary medium for promoting their products and services, she said.

Meanwhile, Mel Dominguez, president and CEO of local PR firm Dominguez Marketing Communications Inc., said that IT firms find "value" in companies specializing in PR work for high-tech companies. Her clients include Cisco, Veritas Software, Compaq, EMC, Dataone and Anixter. The company was established in 1997.

"Instead of investing in advertising, they get PR agencies. This was my experience back in 1998 and even now," Dominguez said.

Dominguez, however, admitted that some of her clients have decreased spending on marketing this year.

Erwin Lemuel G. Oliva

HP-MOD.NET PARTNERSHIP

Hewlett-Packard Philippines Corp. and Mod.Net Internet Infrastructure Philippines Inc. have recently signed an agreement wherein HP and Mod.Net will consolidate their expertise to deliver bundled products. They will also jointly offer technical, management and data center colocation services to e-businesses. Formalizing the agreement are (from left) HP director for infrastructure Suzette Santiago, HP business development manager Michael Moreto, HP Philippines president and general manager Raymund del Val, Mod.Net chair Judith Duavit-Vazquez, Mod.Net president Dr. Bill Torres, Mod.Net corporate solutions group head Michael Solis and Mod.Net sales director Daniel Viray.

The calculator's memory functions

BY JERRY LIAO

HAVE you ever wondered what those MC, MR, MS, M+, CE and C mean in your calculator program under accessories? Here they are with their keyboard shortcuts:

(1) MS = Store a number in memory (Ctrl + M)

(2) MR = Recalls the number stored in memory (Ctrl + R)

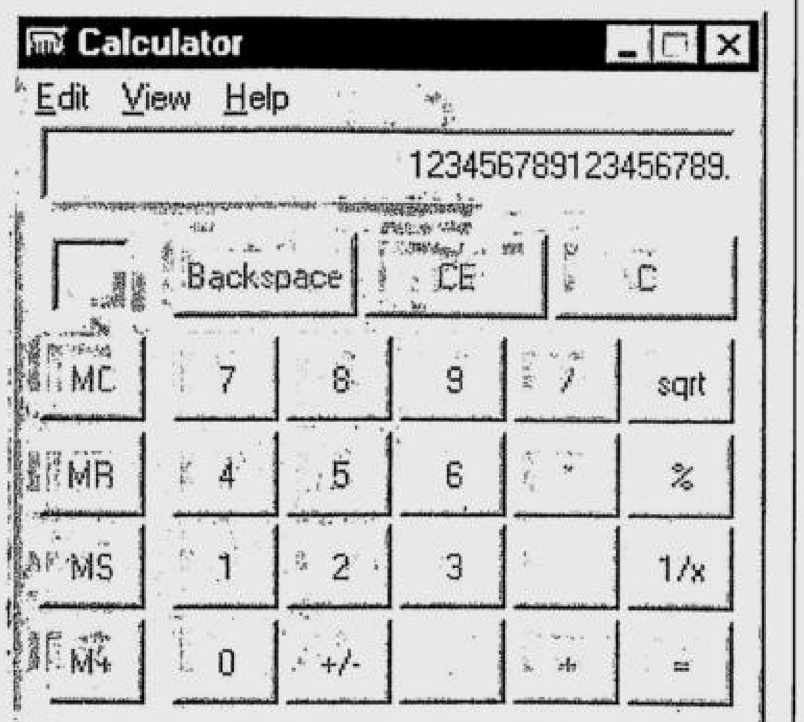
(3) MC = Clear number in memory (Ctrl + L)

(4) M+ = Add the currently displayed number to the one in memory, and then click MR to display the result (CTRL + P)

(5) CE = Clears the displayed number (DEL)

(6) C = Clears the current calculation (ESC)

For more powertips, visit our site at www.brainshare.com.ph. We would like to invite our readers to join the Powertips Group. Simply send your name, address, age, profession and company name to infochat@mozcom.com and receive free tips via e-mail.



CALCULATOR has more tricks in its left-hand buttons

RP e-commerce law turns 1

BY JOEL D. PINAROC

A YEAR after Congress approved the E-Commerce Act, proponents of the said law admit a lot of work must still be done before the country and the government can experience the full benefits of using the Internet as a medium for business and governance.

Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr., one of the authors of the E-Commerce Act of 2000, said government and the private sector have much to do to allow the Philippines to catch up with its Asian neighbors in the field of e-commerce.

Magsaysay, who was one of the guest speakers at the first anniversary celebration of the E-Commerce Law organized by the Philippine Internet Commerce Society (PICS), said infrastructure remains one of the stumbling blocks in the development of e-commerce in the Philippines.

"The government of course sees public service as its No. 1 priority. But initiatives in information and communications technology (ICT) would have to continue," Magsaysay said.

Asked how the government plans to finally resolve the dilemma of infrastructure, primarily the roll-out of more telephone lines into more areas in the country, Magsaysay said government may have to come up with programs that will be attractive to telephone operators to convince them to roll out more telephones using either cable or wireless systems.

As early as 1993, the government implemented Executive Order 109 or the service area scheme, where telephone companies are mandated to roll out a specific number of telephone lines in specific areas. E0 109, however, only slightly raised the country's teledensity.

"I don't see the need to legislate a law to make telcos roll out more phones especially in rural areas. One of the ways to convince telcos to roll out phones is to give them incentives and make them realize the economics of having telephones in far-flung areas," Magsaysay said.

The issue of infrastructure becomes even more important now that government is seriously considering convergence—the integration of voice, data and video into one network—as one of the IT initiatives to follow e-commerce, Magsaysay said.

Former congressman and now Catanduanes Gov. Leandro Verceles Jr., who was also at the celebration, added that government remains optimistic about ICT despite the gloomy business atmosphere. He said that despite the problems and the work left for government and the private sector, the administration of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo will continue coming out with ICT initiatives.

"As I've constantly said, political will is needed for the full development of e-commerce and IT in general in our country. In fact, we will hear President Macapagal-Arroyo dwell more on various ICT-related initiatives in her first Sona (State of the Nation Address)," Verceles said.

Meanwhile, PICS president Janette Toral said her group would continue supporting government ICT initiatives. She said the group would push for the passing of the Universal Access Bill proposed by Sen. Vicente Sotto III.

IT guru says investing on Internet still a viable idea

AFTER SEEING dotcoms fly high only to come plummeting back down to earth a year later, many businesses are now asking how viable future technology ventures would be.

Strategy consulting expert and best-selling author Peter S. Cohan says that now is the best time for businesses to ride on the next wave of the electronic revolution.

COHAN

"We're moving into a more mature phase in e-commerce," says Cohan. "The Internet is still a powerful tool for enhancing business productivity. If used for cutting the cost and improving the quality of interaction between a company and its stakeholders, investing on the Internet-induced business change can yield measurable returns."

Called "the Peter Drucker of the New Millennium," Cohan is a frequent speaker and TV commentator on high technology and has authored four books, including the best-selling and critically acclaimed "e-Profit: High Payoff Strategies for Capturing the E-Commerce Edge" and "Net Profit: How to Invest and Compete in the Real World of Internet Business."

Cohan's management consulting firm helps companies in technology-intensive industries such as telecommunications, computer networking, systems integration and semiconductors identify, evaluate and profit from business opportunities in the New Economy. He says the companies most likely to succeed are those that combine old economy business tenets with well-thought out technology investments.

"Today's technology leaders are competing in markets where demand is big and growing but can still set prices high enough to earn a profit," notes Cohan. "Not only do they have enough capital to assuage fears of cash burnout, they can also defend their markets from competitors."

Cohan will be a guest speaker in "Beyond WAPPceleration" on Aug. 7 at the Shangri-La Makati. The event is being sponsored by the Philippine Wireless Applications Users Group and will bring together the country's leading business and IT professionals to discuss the impact of wireless technologies on commerce and everyday life. Cohan will talk about how businesses and individuals can best benefit in the wirless revolution.

Joining Cohan as guest speaker is NTT DoCoMo's Takeshi Natsuno, the man behind the successful i-Mode cellular phone standard of Japan. Natsuno will share the proven strategies of i-Mode and give a preview of Foma (Freedom of Mobile Multimedia Access), the world's first 3G wireless service.

Philippines Online partners with Akamai

PHILIPPINES Online has announced its strategic relationship with Akamai Technologies Inc. The partnership will see Philippines Online subscribers benefiting from faster downloads, enhanced quality and reliability of Akamai content from thousands of leading Web properties. Akamai will deploy its content delivery servers within Philippines Online's network, resulting in enhanced Web performance for end users.

As an Akamai Accelerated Network, Philippines Online can improve Web performance for its end users by delivering some of the most popular Web content and applications with unparalleled speed from within its own network. By placing servers close to end users inside an ISP's network, Akamai can help its Accelerated Network Partners reduce the amount of transit bandwidth needed to deliver requested webpages that include Akamai content, including streaming media and software downloads.

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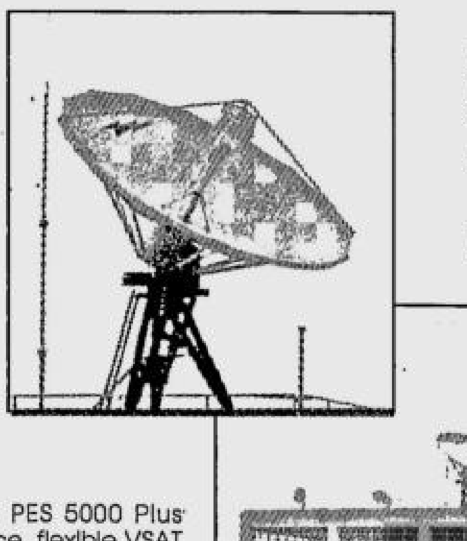
Broadband solutions via wireless technology

When large-scale business operations require seamless connectivity between the head office and remote offices, wireless broadband technology is the answer.

Nationwide two-way broadband connectivity is just one of the solutions that Millenia Broadband Communications Corporation can offer its clients. A congressionally franchised telecommunications company, Millenia delivers broadband solutions through the use of Very Small Aperture Terminal (VSAT) and terrestrial wireless operations.



Hughes network systems

Millenia's technology partner is Hughes Network Systems of the United States. Using Hughes' most advanced satellite network, Millenia is able to provide a host of solutions for every industry. Services offered include Internet access, intranet & extranets, multimedia streaming, content delivery, e-payments, interactive distance learning, and managed network services.

The company deploys the PES 5000 Plus DirecPC/EE system, a high performance, flexible VSAT that supports two-way and one-way broadband data, voice, interactive distance learning, multimedia, and one-way broadcast of audio and video communication at speeds of up to 24 Mbps. The system has a built-in router function that eliminates the need for any router for LAN/WAN connectivity.

This system has been optimized for hundreds of end-user applications including LAN networking, point-of-sale transactions, inventory control, financial transactions, SCADA process control and monitoring, client/server applications and many more.

Space Port in Northgate CyberZone

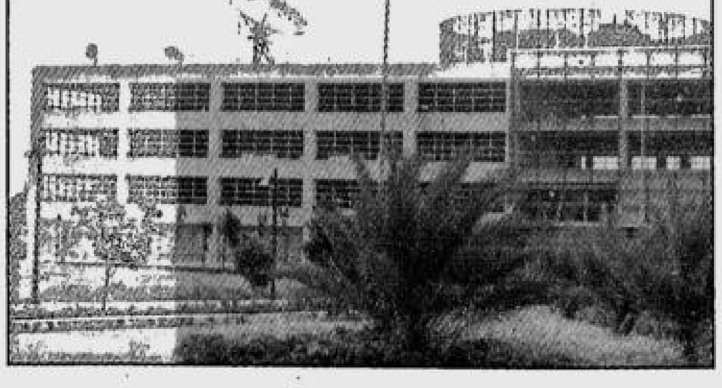
Millenia's Space Port, the broadband VSAT Hub, is housed in Northgate's DataZone, the first world-class data center south of the metropolis. It is also pointed to Measat-2, Binariang Satellite Systems of Malaysia's newest satellite with strong signal coverage in Southeast Asia, including Hawaii.

The DataZone is a 600-sqm space primarily offered for server co-location, server monitoring, management and reporting, security and firewalls, connectivity, network management and reporting, bandwidth management, carrier hotel/space rental, web hosting, shared hosting, dedicated hosting and secured room hosting. It is equipped with a reliable and fully redundant power supply via UPS system, temperature and humidity control, gas fire suppression system, surveillance cameras and 24 hours CCTV tape recording, static proof raised flooring, structured cabling, key-locked rack, and has multiple high-speed bandwidth direct to the Internet Backbone in the US and Asia.

Although any company can avail of their services, the proximity of Millenia's hub directly benefits Northgate CyberZone's locators whose technology-intensive activities would be matched to the company's services.

Reliable and affordable services

Whether a site is in Metro Manila, Cotabato, Palawan or Tawi-Tawi, Millenia's broadband delivery system is capable of delivering up to 24Mbps from the Space Port to any remote location in the Philippines plus Southeast Asia and Hawaii. The VSAT system can be activated in less than a week, unlike other service providers that take a month or more.



Although the actual costs depend on the clients' configuration, Millenia's service is affordable and cost-efficient due to the shared hub configuration, meaning one hub can be shared by multiple clients. It is a broadband point-to-multipoint TDM/TDMA-based system which enables Millenia to pass on efficiencies of the network to its clients. This is a far cry from the typical point-to-point SCPC links that use dedicated channels, thus increasing costs to undesirable levels.

The company has set up regional service depots to ensure rapid deployment and repair capabilities and ensure maximum up-time for clients.

Millenia is equipped to deploy, maintain and expand its services at par with the world's best communications providers. This is in line with its vision of becoming the country's leading VSAT and wireless broadband provider with world-class and customer-oriented services focusing on reliability, performance, affordability, deployment and excellent customer service.

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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Transportation and Communications
LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE
East Avenue, Quezon City

MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO. EMA-MC-01338

To : All Officials and Employees
This Office
Date : 19 July 2001
Subject : IMPLEMENTING GUIDELINES OF ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER No. BGC-AO-001
Re: Rules and Regulations in the Implementation of the Drug Testing of Applicants for Driver's License

SECTION I. INTRODUCTION

Pursuant to AO No. BGC-AO-001 and Section 22 of Republic Act No. 4136 as amended by Batas Pambansa Blg. 398 which provides that, *"every person who desires to operate any motor vehicle shall personally file an application to the Director or his deputies for a license to drive motor vehicles; provided however, that no person shall be issued a professional driver's license who is suffering from contagious diseases such as tuberculosis, sexually transmitted disease and epilepsy or who is an alcohol or drug addict or dependent"*, the following rules and regulations are issued and promulgated for implementation and compliance of all concerned.

Consistent with the primary intention of the cited amendment, of screening out unfit applicants from securing any license to drive in order to minimize if not totally prevent untoward vehicular accidents that often result in serious injuries/damages to lives and properties, all applicants for driver's license will comply with the following rules and regulations.

SECTION II. DEFINITION OF TERMS

a. Dangerous Drugs or Drugs — refer to prohibited and regulated drugs as defined in Section 2, Article I of Republic Act 6425, "The Dangerous Drugs Act of 1972", and shall include controlled substances principally Methampethamine (shabu) and Cannabinoids (marijuana).
b. Drug Test — any chemical, biological or physical instrument analysis administered by a laboratory for the purpose of determining the presence or absence of a drug principally methampethamine and cannabinoids or its matabolite.
    b1. Screening Test — refers to the immunoassay test to eliminate "negative" specimen, i.e. one without the presence of drugs, from further consideration and to identify the presumptively "positive" specimen that requires confirmation or further testing.
    b2. Confirmatory Test — refers to the second or further analytical procedure to identify the presence of drugs in a specimen.
c. Methamphetamine (shabu) — are synthetic amphetamines or stimulants that are produced and sold illegally in pill form, capsules, powder and chunks. Two such methamphetamine are chunks and ice.
d. Cannabinoids (marijuana) — a hemp-like plant whose leaves are smoked in cigarettes as a narcotic.
e. LTO — Land Transportation Office.
f. NCR — National Capital Region.
g. Application Fee — shall mean the amount to be collected upon filing an application for accreditation.
h. License — authority issued by DDB for a laboratory to conduct or perform competent screening, confirmatory test and quantitative examination of dangerous drugs in body fluids.
i. LTO Certificate of Accreditation — shall mean the authority granted by the Accreditation Board to a Drug Testing Laboratory for it to be able to transact business relative to drug testing.
j. Accreditation Board — the body chaired by the Secretary of the Department of Transportation and Communications that is tasked to review and approve or disapprove all applications for accreditation of drug testing laboratories.
k. DDB — Dangerous Drugs Board.
l. Chain of Custody — refers to the procedure established by the testing laboratory for the handling of specimens. It ensures that sample identification and integrity are maintained. It also accounts for the integrity of each specimen by tracking its handling and storage from specimen collection, to final disposition of the specimen.
m. Laboratory/Drug Testing Center — refers to a private or a government agency that is capable of testing a specimen to determine the presence of dangerous drugs therein.
n. Laboratory Manager — refers to the head of a laboratory and must be a licensed chemist, medical technologist, pharmacist or chemical engineer who has experience or training in the theory and practice of the procedures used in the laboratory.

SECTION III. ACCREDITATION OF DRUG LABORATORIES

A. Classification of Drug Testing Laboratories
The LTO shall adopt the laboratory classification of the DDB such as:
1. Class A Laboratories — those that are capable of conducting screening and confirmatory tests and the quantitative examinations of specimens.
2. Class B Laboratories — those that are capable of performing screening and confirmatory tests.
3. Class C Laboratories — those that are capable of conducting screening test.

Participants to the LTO Drug Testing Program shall establish and put up drug screening centers in all LTO District Offices/Licensing Centers nationwide.

B. Procedure
In applying for accreditation of laboratory drug tests, the following steps shall be followed:
1. DDB-licensed laboratories may apply for accreditation for drug screening test, provided it has already set up a private Class A or Class B confirmatory laboratory. The applicant shall submit a duly accomplished application form, together with the documentary requirements hereinafter set forth, to the LTO Committee on Accreditation of Drug Testing Laboratories.

    Upon filing of the application for accreditation, an application fee shall be collected as hereinafter set forth.

    In case of the NCR, applications shall be filed at the Medical Unit, LTO Central Office, East Avenue, Quezon City, for evaluation, inspection and recommendation to the LTO Committee on Accreditation. For other regions of the country, applications shall be filed with the LTO Regional Office where the concerned laboratory operates. Thereafter, the Regional Office is directed to conduct ocular inspection of the laboratory in accordance with DDB and LTO's requirements for evaluation and subsequent recommendation to the LTO Committee on Accreditation.
2. The LTO Central Office Committee on Accreditation of Drug Testing Laboratories shall be created with the following duties and responsibilities:
    2.1 Evaluates the applications, conducts ocular inspection of the laboratory facilities and equipment and recommends approval or disapproval of application to the Assistant Secretary, LTO.
    2.2 Sees to it that the drug testing laboratories operate at all times in accordance with the terms and conditions of the accreditation.
    2.3 Provides proper interpretation of any given and specific requirements that shall govern the operations of the laboratory.
    2.4 Conduct surprise/periodic inspections on the accredited laboratories to ensure effectiveness and to identify and recommend to the Assistant Secretary, the closure of and/or imposition of sanction against any Drug Testing Center found to have violated rules and regulations.
    2.5 Sees to it that technical demands involved in laboratory work are met.
    2.6 Recommends sanctions/penalties on Drug Testing Centers that are found to be unaccredited, to the damage and prejudice of duly accredited laboratories.
    2.7 Furnishes all LTO Regional Offices with an updated list of LTO Accredited Laboratories.
    2.8 Requires all accredited Drug Testing Centers to display in a conspicuous place of the laboratory site the following:
        2.8.1 DDB License to operate.
        2.8.2 LTO Certificate of Accreditation, which is valid only in the place for which it is issued.
        2.8.3 Performance Bond, either as Class A, B or C.
        2.8.4 PRC license of the laboratory manager.
    2.9 Requires that the name of the drug screening laboratory that conducted the test shall appear in the official receipt of the driver's license
    2.10 Requires a Weekly Report from the LTO and Drug Testing Centers, to review/reconcile their records.
    2.11 Sees to it that the drug testing needs or requirements of the different LTO offices nationwide are substantially met.
    2.12 Performs such other duties as may be assigned to it by the Assistant Secretary, LTO.
3. The Assistant Secretary, upon finding the application satisfactory through the evaluation and recommendations of the LTO Central Office Committee on Accreditation of Drug Testing Laboratories, may cause the forwarding of said application to the Accreditation Board for final review and approval or disapproval. Once approved, an accreditation fee shall be collected from the applicant as hereinafter set forth.

SECTION IV. DOCUMENTARY REQUIREMENTS

A. New or Initial Application for Accreditation
The following documents shall be submitted upon filing of initial application for accreditation.
1. Authenticated copy of Certificate of an updated/current licensure to operate issued by the DDB, duly signed by the Executive Director of the Board and Chairman of the Accreditation Committee.
2. Certification from the DDB authorizing the laboratory manager to conduct drug testing.
3. A license of the laboratory manager from the Professional Regulations Commission as chemist, medical technologist, pharmacist or chemical engineer.
4. Certificate of training of the licensed Medical Technologist provided by the company that supplied the drug testing machine.
5. Samples of Chain of Custody forms and procedures.
6. Certificate of Business Name Registration from the Department of Trade and Industry, if single proprietorship.
7. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) Certificate of Registration and Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws, if corporation or partnership
8. Valid and appropriate Mayor's permit.
9. Tax Identification Number (TIN) from the Bureau of Internal Revenue.
10. Latest Income Tax Return.
11. Certificate of membership of the laboratory and its employees with the Social Security System.
12. Specimen signatures of accredited physicians, medical technologists and chemists that are authorized to sign the certificates.
13. Schematic floor plan of the laboratory, indicating its size and location of the testing laboratory in accordance with DDB standards.
14. Authenticated copy of the letter from DDB stating that the Chemist of either a Class A or Class B drug testing laboratory has successfully passed a series of performance tests given by the DDB.
15. A notarized warranty that a confirmatory laboratory can deliver confirmatory results within 24 hours for Metro Manila, and within 72 hours for provincial areas.

B. Renewal of Application for Accreditation
The following documents shall be submitted upon filing for application for renewal of LTO accreditation.
1. Current license to operate issued by the DDB.
2. Current Accreditation Certificate issued by the LTO.
3. Mayor's Permit for the current year.
4. Authenticated copy of SSS remittances and ITR.

SECTION V. ACCREDITATION BOARD

An Accreditation Board chaired by the Secretary of the Department of Transportation and Communications will ensure the proper accreditation of drug testing laboratories. The Assistant Secretary, Land Transportation Office will sit as the Vice Chairman, and the following will act as members: (a) Assistant Secretary for Planning – DOTC; and, (b) Head, Dangerous Drugs Board.

The Accreditation Board will be assisted by a Secretariat with a composition to be determined by the Board.

SECTION VI. TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

The drug testing centers must meet the requirements of the DDB for Accreditation. In addition to such DDB requirements, the LTO shall require the certificate to be issued be made of security paper with security markings as approved by the LTO.

SECTION VII. REPORTING SYSTEM

1. All accredited laboratory managers shall submit a Monthly Report on the results of all drug tests they conducted in a prescribed form. All test results shall be treated with confidentiality.
2. All accredited drug testing laboratories must be connected on-line with the LTO-Information Technology system.

SECTION VIII. INTERPRETATION OF RESULTS

1. Test results shall be printed individually in an official form with seal duly signed by the laboratory manager.
2. All positive results must be submitted to LTO and must have final quantitative findings done by a confirmatory. An applicant found positive for drugs may request that the sample be sent to DDB or a Class A private laboratory for further validation testing, and the result thereof shall be submitted to LTO within 15 days after collection of sample.
3. As confirmed by the Class A Confirmatory Laboratory or the DDB, the concerned DDB-accredited physician shall subject an individual found positive for drugs, to a clinical evaluation as basis for appropriate disposition.

SECTION IX. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

1. Drivers applying for professional license and tested positive for abuse of drugs shall automatically be subjected to Confirmatory Testing using the same urine specimen.
2. Drivers who got involved in serious traffic accidents shall be immediately subjected to drug test. If such a driver is a professional license holder, a laboratory not involved in the previous test of the particular person will conduct the drug test. If found positive for use of prohibited drugs, his license will be immediately suspended for a period of five (5) years. For non-professional license holders that got involved in similar serious accidents and who are found positive for use of prohibited drugs by an accredited drug testing center, his license will be immediately suspended for an indefinite period until the filing of an appropriate and formal appeal with the Office.

SECTION X. FEES

Upon filing of application for accreditation, a Filing Fee in the amount of FIVE HUNDRED PESOS (PhP500.00), and an Accreditation Fee in the amount of TWO THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED PESOS (PhP2,500.00) for Class A, TWO THOUSAND PESOS (PhP2,000.00) for Class B, and ONE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED PESOS (PhP1,500.00) for Class C, shall be collected.

SECTION XI. VALIDITY OF ACCREDITATION PERMIT

The Accreditation permit approved and granted by the Accreditation Board shall be valid for one (1) year starting January to December 31 of any given year, provided any original permit issued during any period shall be valid only up to December 31 of any such given year it is granted. Renewal of permits shall be on or before the last working day of the year of which the permit was granted. Such renewal of permit shall be valid for the next succeeding year.

SECTION XII. PENAL PROVISIONS

A. The accredited laboratory manager/physician shall be penalized with an Administrative Fine in the amount of TEN THOUSAND PESOS (PhP10,000.00) for the first offense. A fine in the amount of TEN THOUSAND PESOS (PhP10,000.00) and suspension of LTO accreditation for ONE (1) YEAR, will be imposed for the second offense, and FINAL cancellation of the accreditation permit for the third offense, for the following violations:
1. Submission of anomalous certificate of test result/reports.
2. Non-compliance with the standard requirements herein provided and other laws and its implementing rules and regulations.
3. Misrepresentation in the filing of the application for accreditation and/or involvement in illegal operations.
4. Any person, firm, partnership or corporation found operating as an accredited laboratory of the LTO on drug tests without an accreditation permit, shall be blacklisted from participating in this program.

B. The Accreditation of a Laboratory Testing Center found to have issued a negative result to a driver applying for professional license, who later on figures in a serious traffic accident, as contemplated in Section VIII hereof, and said driver, after quantitative test analysis immediately after the accident is found to be positive for drug abuse at the time he/she applied for new or renewal of his/her driver's license, shall be ground for perpetual revocation and forfeiture of bond.

SECTION XIII. PERFORMANCE BOND

All Classes "A" and "B" drug testing laboratories duly accredited by this Office are directed to post a bond of Five Hundred Thousand Pesos (PhP500,000.00), while Class "C" drug testing laboratories shall post a bond of Three Hundred Thousand Pesos (PhP300,000.00) in cash, to answer for whatever damages the LTO might suffer for failure of the accredited laboratories to comply with their obligations.

All previous orders/memoranda and other issuance in conflict herewith are deemed superseded.

For guidance and strict compliance.

(Sgd.) **EDGARDO M. ABENINA**
BGen AFP (Ret)
Assistant Secretary

APPROVED:

(Sgd.) **PANTALEON D. ALVAREZ**
Secretary

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INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID

All corporations registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), with extensive experience in the supply and installation of Structured Cabling for high rise office buildings, are invited to apply for pre-qualification and bidding of Contract Package 36B for the new LBP HQ Building in Ermita, Manila, with the following schedule:

Project Title	Project Cost	Issuance of Prequalification Forms	Issuance of Notice of Prequalification/ Predisqualification	Issuance of Bid Docs	Pre-Bid Conference	Bidding Date
Contract Package No. 36B: Supply and Installation of Horizontal Structured Cabling	Php 20.0 Million	August 1, 2001 @10:00 A.M. to 2:30 P.M.	August 15, 2001	August 22, 2001 @10:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.	August 27, 2001 @10:00 A.M.	Sep. 3 2001 @10:00 A.M.

All interested contractors may obtain the Pre-qualification forms from the Project **Management Engineering Department (PMED)**, 2F LBP bldg. 3, 315 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City, upon payment of a non-refundable processing fee of P1,000.00.

Duly accomplished pre-qualification forms shall be submitted to and received at the above-stated office not later than 5:00 PM, **August 8, 2001**, after which no documents will be accepted. All participating contractors shall be notified in writing of the results of the pre-qualification.

Only pre-qualified contractors may secure Bid Documents at the TMG Office located at 3/F, LBP Bldg 2, 316 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P3,500.00.

Pre-bid conference will be held on the above-stated date and time at the FMGSG Conference Room, 2nd Flr, LBP Building 3, 315 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City.

Bidding shall be conducted using the two (2) sealed envelope system (envelopes "A & B") to be submitted to and received not later than 10:00 AM **September 3, 2001** (the Bidding Date), after which no envelopes will be received. Bidding shall be held @ the FMGSG Conference Room, 2F, LBP Bldg. III, 315 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City.

LBP reserves the right to change the date of issuance of bid documents, pre-bid conference and the bidding date. Due notice of changes shall however be communicated by LBP to pre-qualified bidders.

LBP likewise reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or formality, assume no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expense or loss that they may incur in the preparation of their bid, and to accept the bid most advantageous to the Bank.

(Sgd.) **ANTONIO T. HERNANDEZ**
Chairman
Sub-Committee for LBP HQ Bldg. Project

(PDI--July 28, 29 & 30, 2001)

INQUIRER
TRiViA
By BONG BARRAMEDA

Holy elephant

Q. Why does the bishop in chess feature a slit or nick on its crown?

A. The precursor of chess is a sixth-century Indian game called Chaturanga, but it was vastly different from the chess played today. Rooks were chariots, knights were cavalry, and bishops were elephants. The game reached Persia, where it became known as Chatrang. After the Moors invaded Persia, they changed the name to Shatranj and the game traveled to Moorish Spain, beginning its European conquest. Since physical representations are forbidden in the Islamic religion, the elephant became a piece shaped like a minaret (a Moslem tower) with a nick cut into it. Later, when Europeans saw this piece, the pointed top with a nick reminded them of a bishop's miter, or tall cap, hence the new name.

For the Record. Instead of a king or an emperor piece, Chinese chess has a piece called the general. Why? Emperor Wen-Ti, of the Hsia dynasty, was traveling through the countryside and saw two people playing chess. He was informed that the main piece was a rajah or shah, meaning emperor in Chinese. When he noticed that this piece was *touched* and *moved*, Wen-Ti's royal dignity was so outraged that he had the players beheaded. The king or emperor piece was accordingly changed to the general piece, thereby preventing players from losing their heads over a game.

Past Forward. This day in 1934: President Manuel L. Quezon opened the 1934 Constitutional Convention at the Legislative Building in Manila. Elected president was Claro M. Recto, with Ruperto Montinola and Teodoro Sandiko as vice-presidents. Of the 202 delegates, the oldest was Sandiko at 74; the youngest was youth leader Wenceslao Q. Vinzons at 24.

WORD WATCH

Convention (kuhn ven shun) : from the Latin *con-* ('together') + *venio* ('come').

PDI – July 30, 2001

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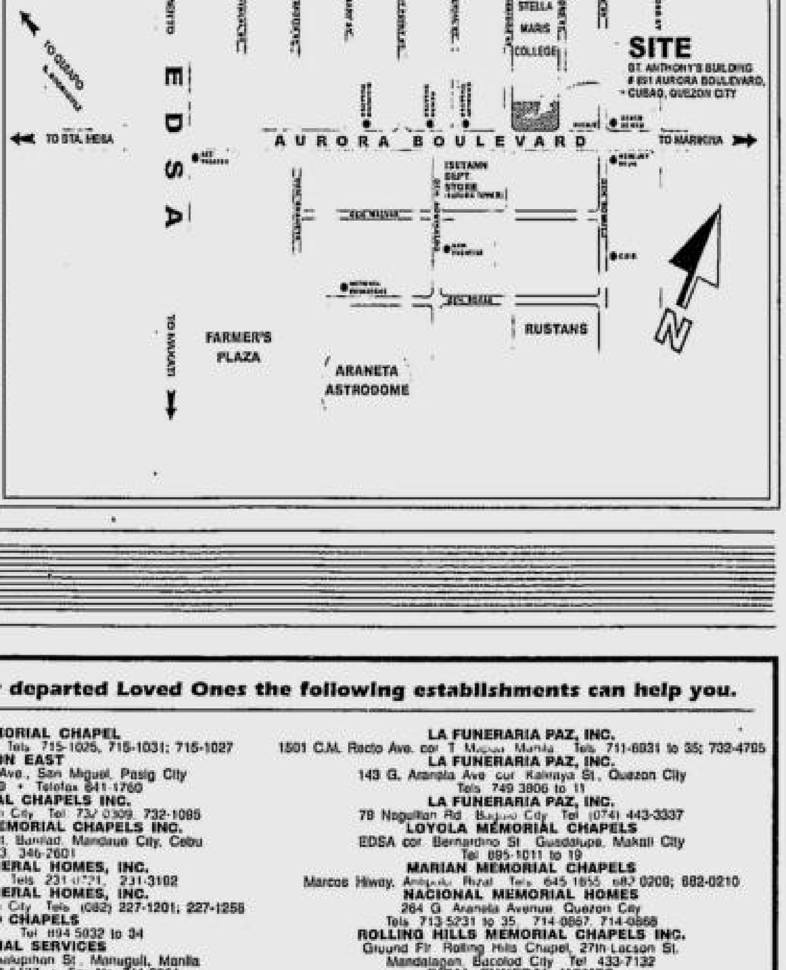

OBITUARIES

MESSAGE OF THANKS

We, the family and relatives of the late

GREGORIO M. MADLANGSACAY

who joined his Creator on July 2, 2001

wish to express our heartfelt gratitude and sincere appreciation to everyone who helped and comforted us during our time of bereavement.

May God grant you abundant blessings for your thoughtfulness and generosity.

MA. CLARA (TITANG) TARNATE BERBA

of Batangas City and Lemery Batangas
January 13, 1915 - July 27, 2001.

Peacefully joined her husband Filemon (Emon) and son Eduardo in the everlasting kingdom of God on July 27, 2001.

Her children Jun and Bobbie, Nene, Marilou and Dean Velasco, Lando, Egay and Rowena, Edmund and Joyce, Reggie and Belen, her sister Nena de Leon, brothers Penchong and Benny, her grandchildren and great grandchildren request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Christ The King church, Greenmeadows, Quezon City. Interment will be on Tuesday, July 31 at the Loyola Memorial Park in Marikina after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

"From darkness let the light shine!" Genesis 1:3

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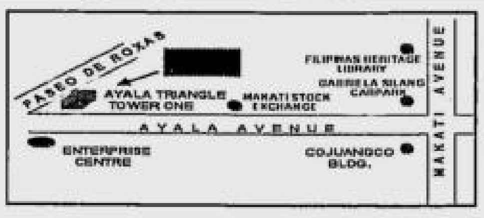

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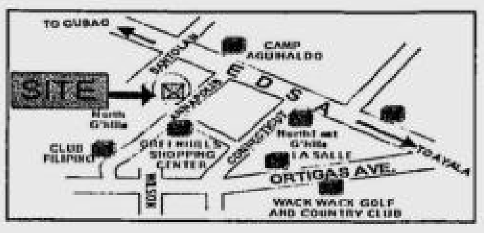

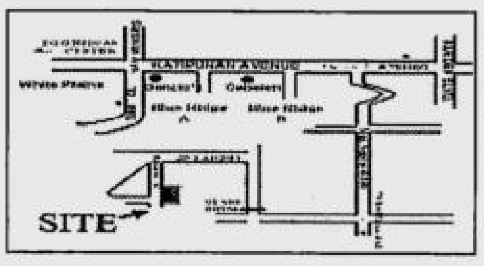

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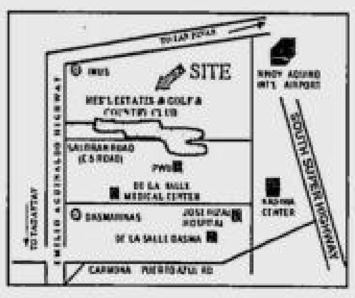
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Tel No. : 840-0140 / 893-8620 / 893-8614 / 811-3566
E-mail: crparducho@unionbankph.com

HOUSE & LOT

LAS PINAS

RUSH BFR 3BR2TB 285LA 100FA 4271243 Robert

MAKATI

Bel Air Bes. RKWL 560m² 22M 4121825 09177914366

Bonifacio Ridge Londo Mkti Pre Selling Tel 928-1469

PARANAQUE

BF CITI PQUE Lots-Hse &Lots Regis09187092723

BF Paranque P3M 3BDRMS 2TB In-House Financing 815-0298

PASIG

5BR 4TB LA406m² FA260m² #7 Delgado Antonio Vill Rose 671-0900 See to Appreciate

Dona Juana Subd Pasig 4.1M 3BR • 915-5177

H&L Greenpark P4.2M 645-9931

New H&L Excl Subd. P5M 5min. to C-5 633-7602/03

VVerde 2 3BR 4car 17M Den 4121825 09177914366

QUEZON CITY

Acropolis 4br 4tb 18-25M Call 633-7601/03

BAESA Q.C. LA932sqm 4-Ind • Tel. 928-1469

Baler QC L2000m² Call 928-1469

Baler QC L3000 w/Hse Rollin New Mla L625 V Lot New Mla L280 2Stry Call 928-1469

Congressional Ave. Q.C 2474 Comm'l Lot Tel 928-1469

Corinthian San Juan 30M Neg. LA630m² • 658-2410

Del Monte L1800M VL071 Tel 928-1469

Edsa Along Hway L3000 V-Lot Tel 928-1469

Fairview QC L1000M VLot Tel 928-1469

••LA VISTA•• 5BR Twnhse 7M neg Call 435-2346

•Loyola Grand Villas• 4BR 8M NEG. 435-2346

Mindanao Ave Comm'l Lot L800M² DBuyer Call 928-1469

PHILAM Q.C. 13M TEL. 915-5177

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Rolling Hill New Mla L258 2STY 4Br 2Car Tel 928-1469

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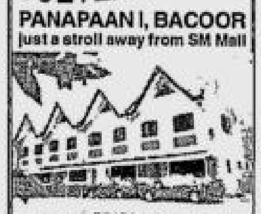

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RIZAL

Ferretville Antipolo Bungalow 3BR, 1 T&B 658-2115/16

Ridgement Subd. Cainta Bungalow 3BR, 2 T&B W/ Car Grg. 658-2115/16

Valley View Exec. Cainta Rizal - Bungalow, Townhse, Split level read'l hse 658-2115/16

SAN JUAN

892m² 5BR with Pool N. Grnhills Raquel • 634-1212

AIC Gold Tower Ortigas 2Br W/ Den/ 1Car Tel 928-1469

West Greenhills 5Br Spool 412-1825 • 681-2457

PROVINCIAL

Baguio Vacation House 3 Storey Hse 6Br, 2T&B, 6 Car Grg. 658-2115/16

Tagatay L249M² 2Sty 3Br, 3Tb Ice Tel 928-1469

Tagatay L286M² 2Sty 3Br, 3Tb Ice Tel 928-1469

OTHER AREAS

CanyonWoods Btngas 7.5M ownrlvng neg0917-8143792

Clopsville Subd. Duplex & Single Detached 658-2115/16

LOT

LAS PINAS

Talon Las Pinas LA 204m² 3BR 2TB Bung P14M 874-9074/75

MAKATI

Comm'l/Ind'l LOT Nr. Ford Motor 637-6847 • 633-7601

MANILA

Near Espana Mla. 142m² No Flood 20m Frontage P3.6M Call 925-8018

MARIKINA

Rancho Estate 2,054sqm, with fence already no flood P2,700sqm 681-2457

LOT

PROVINCIAL

BULACAN
INDL LOT FOR SALE
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MUNTINLUPA

Alabang Hills 533m² 815-0298 • 0919-4037225

PARANAQUE

Exec.HeightsSunvalley LA306m² 2M 0917-8143792

Mervile 41.7m² L 532-3936

PASIG

869m² Valle Verde 5 Call Raquel • 634-1212

Valley View Exec. Cainta Overlooking 2 adj. lots 150m² 658-2115/16

QUEZON CITY

400sqm Cap. Park 938-9719

Capitol Homes QC 551sqm Call 0919-4227654

Nr. Baler SFDM QC 445m² V/Lot w/Fence • 928-3267

SFDM QC 519m² 815-0298 • 0919-4037225

RIZAL

10,012m² P250m² with fruit bearing trees 652-0227

1,927m² P5,000 Town proper along National Road 652-0227

Agricultural land Antipolo Masinag Market L/A 2.8m² 658-2115/16

Antipolo City proper Commercial 1756m² 658-2115/16

Binangonan Rizal Overlooking/ Road'l 1000m² 658-2115/16

Brgy. Bilibiran, along national road 652-0227

RIZAL

Cainta Greenland 120m² P400T Call 896-5474

Ciudad del Sol TayTay Rizal Affordable lots from 58.5m² & Up 658-2115/16

East Acropolis Taytay, choice read'l /Commercial lots Cash/Inst. 658-2115/16

One ha. More or less P2,500m² 652-0227

Ridgement Subd. Cainta Overlooking Metro Mla. 150m² and Up 658-2115/16

Taytay 10790m² Commercial 815-0298/0919-4037225

Taytay 2679m² Nr.T.Hut 815-0298 • 0919-4037225

Taytay Rizal Commercial Industrial 108m² 658-2115/16

Vista Verde Cainta Rizal Victoria St. 5 adj. lots 150m² 658-2115/16

Vista Verde Cainta 645-9931

SAN JUAN

Corner Commercial lot 1,301sqm at P55,000/sqm 681-2457• 0917-5413445

PROVINCIAL

114 has. P1,500m² along South SuperHway.652-0227

1,370Has @ P60/m² Loc. Mayantoc Sta. Ignacia & San Jose Tarlac 652-0227

1,700Has @ P280/m² Along D H-way other side along shoreline 652-0227 • 942-6181

200 has. Expandable to 1,000 has. P320m² Frontage 1.8kms. 652-0227

40 has P400m² Beside Port of Entry 652-0227

Aguinaldo Hway Cor Gov. Dr. 372Ha 1,500/m² 652-0227

Belle Reve Sta. Rosa LA-700sqm • 915-5177

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Dasarinas Cavite 2774m² 4Whse Tel 928-1469

Malinta Bulacan 7049V Lot Alg Hway Tel 928-1469

Nice Lot Nr. New St. Scho. in Sta. Rosa Laguna 6337601/03

Pampanga 27 has along Mac Arthur Hiway 30mins fr Subic, P230/sqm 681-2457• 0917-5413445

Tagaytay City, Bo. Kaybagal 4.5 has at P1,500/sqm, Neg. 681-2457• 0917-5413445

Tagaytay Lot Windsor 240m² P5200 Neg Owner Leaving • Call 746-4772

Tanza Cavite Lot 1.5Hect Comm'l Lot 1T/m² Tel 928-1469

OTHER AREAS

Batangas City 09178194131 18ha along hiway P300/m²

BFResort LA 260m² 5,500m² NR. ClubHouse 874-9074/75

Hilsboro LA 400m² 7500m² 874-9074/75

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

CONDO/TWNHSE/APT

KALOOCAN

Townhouse B-New Up & Down LA-50m² FA-45m² w/Prkng Arnel 640-8448 • Text 0917-8349005 (Broker's OK!)

MAKATI

3BR3TB Condo Magallanes Tel. 8317881/8311704

Antel Platinum Condo Valero St. Mkti City Pkg Space 658-2115/16

Antel Platinum Valero Mkti 40.5m² w/Prkng Lot 658-2115/16

C5 Nr. The Fort 988T 2BR 10T Mo/ 3 Yrs No Int. RFO 0917-8313226 • 1481-769894

MANILA

Annapolis Ghills w/View 3BR / 3TB nice • 928-3267

Antel Seaview Roxas Blvd Stud 2.2M terms ok 928-3267

U.N. AVE TWNHSE 3BR 3TB 5613501 / 09192298423

Woodside NManila Q.C 915-5177

MANDALUYONG

Condo 4Sale 28m² 938-9719

Madison Suites 78m² 2BR Hi-Flr 412-1825 • 681-2457

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Pioneer West Studio 1Br Sale or Rent 412-1825

Rush! Pioneer Highlands 2br 3.8M DBO09178143792

ShawTower P1.37M BigStdio Nr ShangrLa/Mega T5329551

Various Wack² Condos Lee Gardens 534-6610 Jojo

Wack² Royal Mansion Studio P1.5M 633-7601/03

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PASIG

235 FA 3BR Renaissance 3 Cor. Unit Raquel 634-1212

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Renaissance 2000 Rush! DBO 2br+2tb 09178143792

VV5 Luxury Townhomes, 3BR, Attic, FA256sqm, 3pkng P6.5 Rush 681-2457

VV6 VernidaTownhomes, 3BR, Attic, FA207sqm, 2pkng P7M 681-2457• 0917-5413445

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OTHER AREAS

HorseShoe 3BR 915-5177

Prince David Loyola 1BR 2.5M • 915-5177

VARIOUS AREAS

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REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

APARTMENT

MAKATI

Up&Down Tel. 896-18-20

MANILA

1BR,3BR.w/gar.strong H2O. phone nr. P.Gil St. 5634007/5642878

QUEZON CITY

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SAN JUAN

Up/dwn 2BR 2TB w/grge 920-6694/925-1348/49

HOUSE

MAKATI

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PASIG

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HOUSE

SAN JUAN

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PROVINCIAL

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CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

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SAN JUAN

GHills 3BR FFur P30T; 1BR Fur /UF P18T Call 723-2391

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(PDI-July 23, 30 & Aug. 6, 2001)

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given that Alabang Golf and Country Club Stock Certificate A2108 in the name of Eduardo Escueta was lost.
(PDI-July 23,30 &Aug.6,2001)

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given of the Loss of the following Philippine Long Distance Telephone Company Stock Certificates:

Serial No.	No. of Shares
129684	46
36364	187
116975	98
MFU33774	187
110898	50
98344	15
98343	93
92460	5
MFO92459	93
MFO76763	46
MFO67706	85
MFO57539	77
MFO48469	15
MFO41546	11
MFO41547	2
MFU13463	124
MFO26335	1
MFO26336	11
MFO18777	11
MFO012696	11
MFO9769	11
MFU4441	175
MFO4898	52
MFU3295	350
129685	39

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(PDI--July 16, 23 and 30, 2001)

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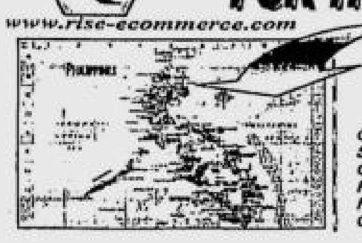

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Consultants with extensive experience in geotechnical investigation, surveying, drilling, sampling, field and laboratory testing of soils, rocks and minerals for port development projects and other related activities are requested to submit their letters of intent and prequalification statements to the Office of the Assistant General Manager for Engineering, 2nd Floor, Marsman Building, Muelle de San Francisco, Gate 1, South Harbor, Port Area, Manila not later than 1700 hours on 31 August 2001.

Interested firms will be prequalified by the PPA's Prequalification, Evaluation and Awards Committee (PEAC) for consultancy services for infrastructure projects based on their submitted Prequalification Documents in accordance with the specific guidelines set forth and prequalification forms specified in Appendix A of the NEDA Guidelines.

Only prequalified firms will be notified and requested to submit sealed bids and other documents. The evaluation of pre-qualified firms shall be in accordance with Appendix B of the NEDA Guidelines.

PPA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any formality therein and to accept such bid as it may consider complying and the most advantageous to the Government.

PPA assumes no obligation whatsoever to compensate, or indemnify the bidders for any expense or loss they may incur in the preparation of their prequalification statements/bid nor does it guarantee that an award will be made on the basis of these documents.

Additional information may be furnished upon request. Please address all communications to the Assistant General Manager for Engineering, 2nd Floor, Marsman Building, Muelle de San Francisco, Gate 1, South Harbor, Port Area, Manila. Any delay in the submission of such information or its non-provision shall not be construed to mean an extension of the deadline for the submission of said requirements.

(Sgd.) **MEDARDO M. MELICOR**
Assistant General Manager
Engineering Office

(PDI--July 30 & August 2, 2001)

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Deadline for submission of Bid Proposal on August 16, 2001, Thursday, up to 5:00 p.m.

(Sgd.) **IGNACIO B. GIMENEZ**
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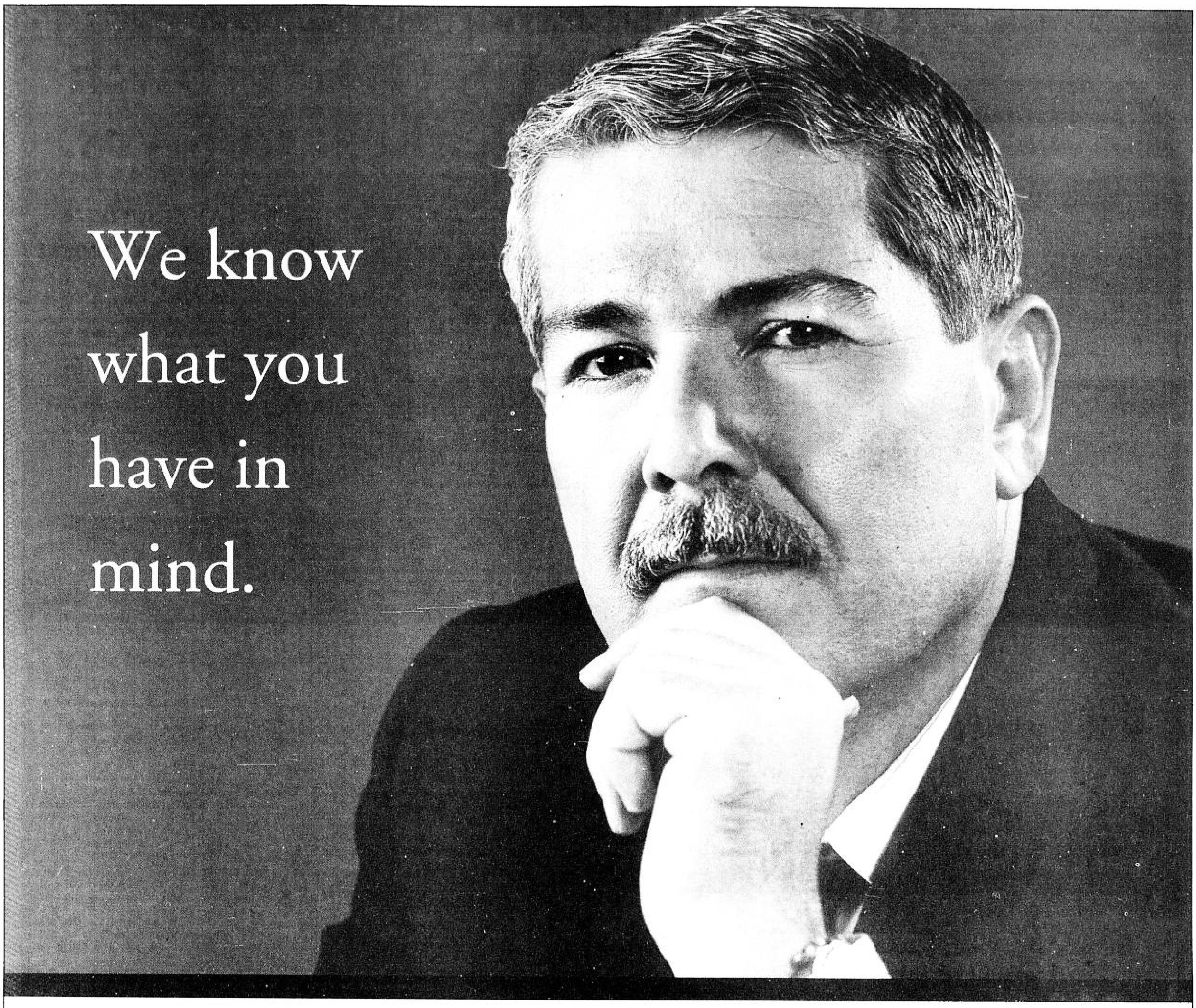
(PDI - July 30 & 31, 2001)



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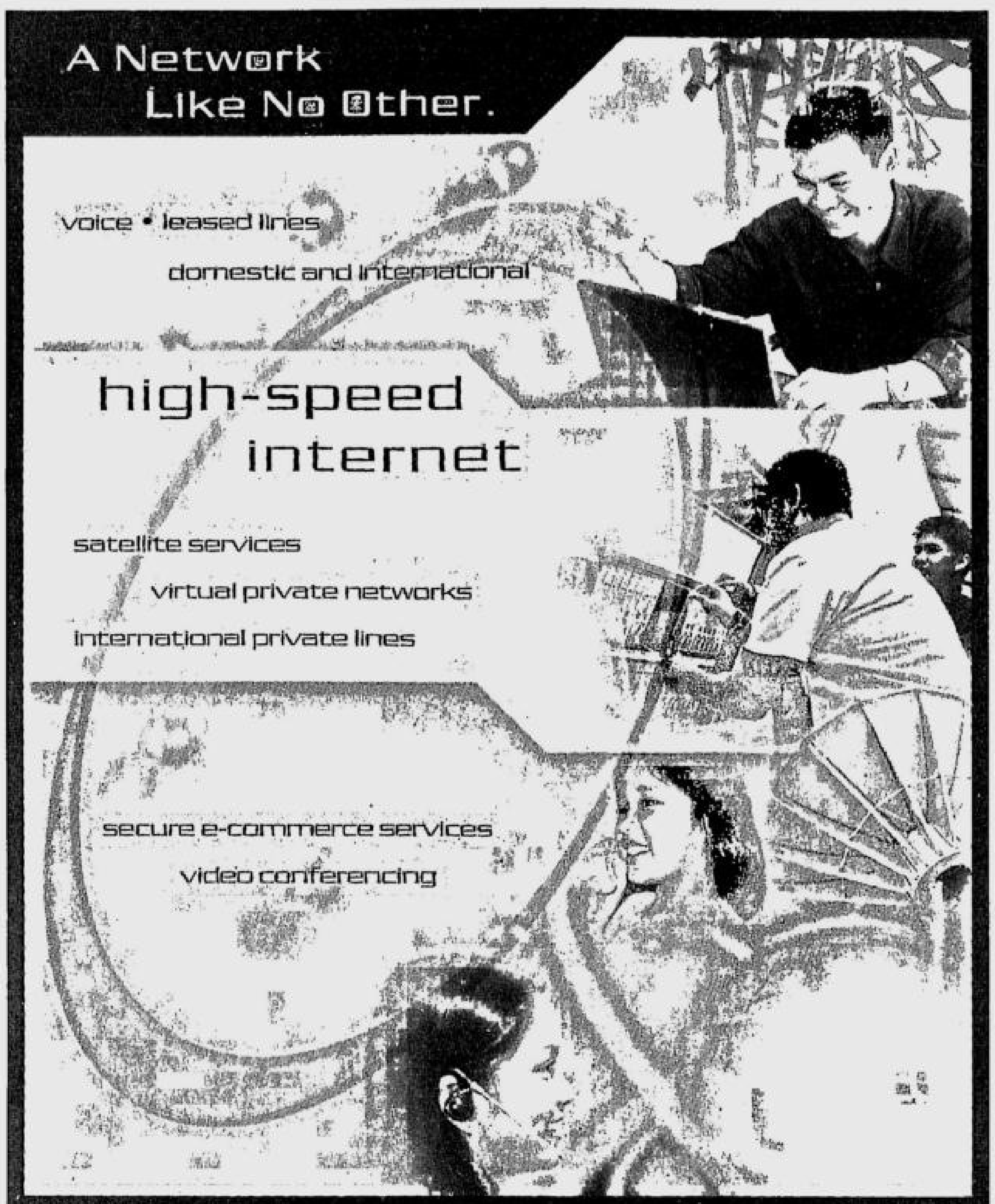

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US GDP growth weakest in 8 yrs.

WASHINGTON—The US economy endured its weakest growth rate in eight years in the second quarter as American companies cut back on investment spending by the biggest amount in two decades.

Resilient consumers kept the economy afloat, although just barely, as the gross domestic product—the country's total output of goods and services—eked out a tiny 0.7-percent growth rate in the April-June quarter.

Looking for glimmers of hope in the midst of a slowdown that began last summer, many analysts say they believe the country has now passed the maximum danger point for a recession. They forecast steady improvement for the rest of this year.

"I think we have seen the bottom for this economic cycle," Sung Won Sohn, chief economist at Wells Fargo in Minneapolis, said. "Consumers have prevented the economy from sliding off a cliff and now they will be getting some help."

'Puttering along'

Sohn and other analysts point to falling interest rates, lower energy prices and the $40 billion in tax rebate checks that taxpayers have started to receive as positive developments.

"While we're still skating on the edge of a recession, I think the outlook for the economy is now quite encouraging," said Bill Cheney, chief economist at John Hancock Financial Services in Boston. The current economic expansion is now in a record 11th year.

President Bush, who was accused by Democrats of talking down the economy as a way to sell his tax cut program, said Friday's GDP report showed how important it was that Congress approved a package that included rebate checks to get relief into consumers' hands quickly.

"The economy is puttering along. It is not nearly as strong as it should be," Bush told members of the Future Farmers of America at the White House.

Wall Street saw the weak GDP report as confirmation of the string of the dismal second quarter earnings reports it had been seeing. The Dow Jones industrial average ended the day down 38.96 at 10,416.67. For the week, the Dow lost 159.98 points.

Lawrence Lindsey, the president's chief economist, said in a CNN interview, "we have seen the worst of times already." He predicted the economy would return to robust growth in 2002.

Rates cut

Many analysts said they looked for growth to rebound to around 2 percent in the current quarter and 3.5 percent in the fourth quarter. They predicted that the Federal Reserve would cut rates for a seventh time at its Aug. 21 meeting to help the recovery along.

The Fed would have room to cut rates further because of an absence of inflation. An inflation gauge tied to the GDP showed prices rising by just 1.7 percent in the second quarter, the best performance since early 1999.

The 0.7-percent GDP increase, the fourth straight quarter of sub-par activity, was the poorest showing since the GDP actually shrank by 0.1 percent in the first quarter of 1993. The GDP for the first quarter of this year was revised to a rate of 1.3 percent.

The slowdown that started in the summer of 2000 was the result of a campaign by the Fed to raise interest rates in an effort to keep tight labor markets from making inflation worse. When the severity of the downturn became evident, the Fed reversed course in January and began cutting interest rates.

Fears

While most economists were optimistic that the nation will be able to avoid a recession, some worried that the unrelenting problems in manufacturing, which lost 785,000 jobs in the last year, could spill over to the rest of the economy if consumers suddenly stopped spending because of fears about their own jobs. There were also fears of spreading weakness overseas.

"A sharp deterioration in growth overseas and the continuing impact of an overvalued dollar are wreaking havoc on companies' ability to export," said Jerry Jasinowski, president of the National Association of Manufacturers. *AP*

US sidesteps recession; worst may be over

NEW YORK—US business investment collapsed in the first half of the year, corporations slashed jobs at the fastest pace in a decade and excess production capacity in industry grew to levels not seen since the 1980s.

It might have felt like a recession, but it wasn't one.

The slowdown has not met the textbook definition of a recession—two straight quarters of declining gross domestic product. Many Wall Street economists now say the worst is probably behind the United States, and they expect growth to pick up speed in the second half of the year.

But some warn there are still significant risks in that outlook, the main one being that mounting job cuts will crimp consumer confidence and consumer spending, which accounts for two-thirds of US economic activity.

"We believe that the first half was the weakest part of the slowdown," said Merrill Lynch chief economist Bruce Steinberg.

The government said Friday that GDP grew at an ever-so-slight 0.7-percent pace in the second quarter, slower than the 1.3-percent rate in the first quarter.

Economists agree the Federal Reserve's deep interest rate cuts since the beginning of the year helped avert a recession. Further, sluggish growth has reduced the threat of inflation, meaning the Fed can be comfortable cutting rates further, as it is expected to do at its upcoming August 21 policy meeting.

"We've avoided a recession and we'll continue to avoid it," said Wayne Ayers, chief economist at FleetBoston Financial. *Reuters*

More Americans struggled with card payments in May

NEW YORK—More Americans struggled to make their monthly credit card payments in May, as credit card issuers wrote off more bad loans than year-ago levels for a fourth straight month, bond rating agency Moody's Investors Service said Friday.

Moody's credit card charge-off index, which gauges the level of loan write-offs, rose to 6.62 percent in May from 6.02 percent a year earlier and was up 33 basis points (or 33 hundredths of a percentage point) from April's level.

This deterioration in consumer credit quality is precarious at a time when consumer spending has largely kept the economy from slipping into a recession, according to economists.

Worsening credit quality has coincided with a gloomy job picture for Americans, saddled with debt loads not seen since the mid-1980s, as Corporate America seems to be cutting their payrolls by thousands on a daily basis.

According to the Federal Reserve Board, the average American household spent 14.35 percent of its income to pay off consumer and mortgage loans during the first three months of the year. That figure is the second highest ever, just below the 14.38 percent for the fourth quarter of 1986 since the Fed began this data series in 1980.

Moody's partly blamed the rise in charge-offs on a spike in personal bankruptcy filings earlier this year, as borrowers rushed to file before stringent bankruptcy reform was enacted, which would make it harder for them to wipe out their debt.

"Non-business bankruptcy filings, which rose to near-record highs in the first quarter of 2001, were again partly responsible, as most credit card issuers write off bankrupt accounts within 60 days of receiving notice," Moody's said in its latest credit card report.

Non-business US bankruptcy filings rose to 356,836 in the first quarter, the highest since the second quarter of 1998.

This negative trend in card losses would unlikely end soon because the rate of card payment delinquency in May ran above its year-ago level for a sixth consecutive month, Moody's said.

It is typical that a portion of the delinquent loans eventually becomes uncollectable and has to be written off by card issuers. *Reuters*

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British GDP growth slows to 2.1% in Q2

LONDON—The British economy grew at its slowest rate for more than two years through the second quarter, official figures showed Friday, as the US slowdown and the foot-and-mouth crisis threw the brakes on one of Europe's powerhouse economies.

Economic growth slowed up to an annual rate of 2.1 percent in the April-June period from 2.7 percent in the previous quarter, according to the Office for National Statistics.

Britain's finance minister, Gordon Brown, said the economic slowdown was likely to get worse in the coming months, but insisted that Britain was well placed to resist the worst that the US downturn could do.

Brown said when he met fellow European finance ministers several weeks ago, "we agreed that it may not yet have reached its bottom, but at the same time we are better placed than we have been in the past because of our monetary policy changes with the Bank of England to cope with the uncertainties.

"But it does mean that each continent has got to play its part in restoring growth," he told the BBC in New York, where he has been meeting business leaders.

The growth rate compared with that of the previous three-month period was even more sluggish at just 0.3 percent, the lowest quarterly growth rate since the winter of 1998, the British government statistics agency said.

The new figures did not surprise the City. Analysts had pencilled in similar forecasts, the stock market remained buoyant on Friday and the pound was little changed against the dollar or the Euro.

Many noted that Britain remained far more buoyant than other industrialized countries, particularly Germany and the United States.

"Britain is nowhere near a recession," said Barclays Stockbrokers' economist Hilary Cook.

"The fact is that the UK economy is still very strong," she said, adding that the recent outbreak of the foot-and-mouth disease had probably knocked 0.3 percentage points off 12-month economic growth.

"There was some anecdotal evidence that the champagne tents (at summer sporting events) were much quieter than normal, which must mean a recession is coming," Cook said. "But there seemed to be plenty going down at Henley (rowing regatta)."

If there is a problem in the British economy at present, it is that the manufacturing sector is flirting with recession while the service sector powers ahead. *AFP*

POLICY SHIFT

Arguments for and against a strong dollar

WASHINGTON—Recent comments from the White House and the US Treasury department about the dollar's strength have left financial markets wondering if there has been a shift away from the traditional strong dollar policy.

But despite calls from a powerful lobby of exporters for the Bush administration to engineer a weaker dollar, US officials insist that policy is unchanged.

The discussion has drawn attention to the dollar, which has appreciated by 30 percent in trade-weighted terms since 1995, and ignited the debate about the advantages and disadvantages of the strength of the US currency.

Here are the key points in the discussion.

Reasons to have a strong dollar

- A strong dollar should help keep inflation low as imports are cheaper.

"A weaker dollar has consequences for the inflationary outlook," said Robert Hormats, vice chair of Goldman Sachs.

Some analysts are skeptical, though, about how much the strong dollar has really been instrumental in keeping inflation under control. "It has probably helped keep inflation down but not had a major impact. It may be worth a few tenths of a percent to the numbers," said Michael Rosenberg, chief foreign exchange strategist at Deutsche Bank in New York.

Some analysts also say that a weaker dollar could actually lead to slower US growth. "We had a weak dollar in the '70s but that was not good either because it raises the costs of capital and so the United States can't keep up with competitiveness in other countries and we lose jobs," said David Malpass, chief international economist at Bear Stearns.

- Growth is sluggish in the euro area and in Japan so, if the dollar is strong and the currencies of those countries are weaker, it should give them a better chance at economic recovery. "It has in Europe, but I'm not sure it has helped Japan yet, but in principle it should do, everything else being equal," said Rosenberg.

- A strong dollar provides a good safe haven place for cash in times of financial market crisis. Analysts say that capital inflows from investors pulling out of emerging markets in recent years during a series of crises including Asia and Russia and now Argentina and Turkey, has been one of the key reasons for dollar strength.

- Any significant change in the strength of the dollar risks upsetting financial markets around the world. The United States absorbs a record 64 percent of all capital flows in the world today. So a 1-percent shift in global asset allocation away from the dollar would amount to a $300-billion outflow from the United States, according to Deutsche Bank research.

Reasons to have a weaker dollar

- The Federal Reserve has cut interest rates by 2-3/4 percentage points so far this year, but analysts say the impact of the cuts is, in part, being undermined by the strength of the dollar, which undermines competitiveness.

- A strong dollar is one of the factors cited by economists as having boosted inflation in other countries, particularly in Europe. Most notably, Bank of England Governor Edward George said the strong dollar was "one of the factors" contributing to higher inflation in the euro-zone.

- There are risks for emerging markets, such as Argentina, with a peg or partial peg to the dollar and also for those trying to make payments on dollar-denominated assets. "It makes their goods and services more expensive to the rest of the world, and it makes their domestic assets more expensive to non-dollar investment, which puts pressure on the pegs," said Arnab Das, head of global emerging market strategy at Dresdner Bank. The strong dollar is of particular concern for Argentina because a large part of its trade is with Europe and Brazil where the currencies have depreciated against the dollar, which means they have lost competitiveness, he adds.

- The stronger the dollar gets (and some argue the more overvalued it becomes against other currencies like the euro) the more potential there is for a correction, which could wreak havoc across world financial markets. In a recent report, the International Monetary Fund cited a drop in the value of the US dollar and unwinding of fiscal imbalances in the United States as one of the key risks in the global economy.

- The strong dollar is depressing US exports, particularly in the manufacturing sector. The National Cotton Council and the United Auto Workers on Thursday joined the growing chorus of those complaining about the strong dollar. Two weeks ago, a powerful lobby that included the National Association of Manufacturers, the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organization, and the American Farm Bureau wrote to Bush asking for a weaker dollar. They said the strong dollar was threatening to tip the US and the global economies into recession. The group says that the strong dollar is encouraging US businesses to move their production lines abroad or closing down altogether, risking US jobs. As foreign trade makes up about 12 percent of US gross domestic product, some say that the cries of the exporters should not be ignored. *Reuters*

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US protection against Asian textiles sought

WASHINGTON—Governors from the major US textile-producing region are asking President George Bush for protection against Asian imports, which they say are causing massive job losses and plant closures in their states.

In seeking the protection, the governors, on behalf of the textile industry, are hoping Bush extends the same type of helping hand he already has offered the US steel industry.

On June 5, Bush asked the US International Trade Commission to investigate whether steel imports are harming US companies, the first step toward imposing import controls.

The governors of North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia and Alabama, in a letter dated July 25, said the "deepening crisis in the American textile industry" required similar action.

Officials at the US Trade Representative's office were not available for comment on the governors' request.

But Thursday, USTR Robert Zoellick told a Washington trade group he was sympathetic to developing countries' desire for greater access to global textile markets.

"Would I like to open our market more to textiles? You bet," Zoellick said, noting imports were just as important to America's prosperity as exports.

The US textile industry, which employs nearly 500,000 workers nationwide, has lost more than 10 percent of its workforce in the past year, according to the southern governors.

In May alone, they said, 9,000 US textile workers lost their jobs and more than a dozen mills closed.

The governors placed the blame directly on "the tidal wave of unfairly low-priced Asian imports that have flooded our country in recent years."

The cost of those imports had fallen an average of 40 percent, they said, largely because of currency devaluations in 1997-1998 related to an economic downturn in Asia.

Carlos Moore, executive vice president of the American Textile Manufacturers Institute, said in an interview the currencies of Thailand, Indonesia, the Philippines, Malaysia, India, Pakistan and Bangladesh were all set at suspiciously low levels given the economic rebound in many of them.

Those countries, he said, were among the top 25 textile exporters globally.

Moore said besides seeking an investigation that could lead to import controls, the US textile industry was seeking several other actions from the administration.

Those include a clamp-down on illegal textile imports into the United States, pressuring Asian countries to better-align their currency values with economic conditions and using bilateral and multilateral negotiations to bring down Asian countries' barriers to US textiles.

Moore added that pressure on the administration would continue as textile-state members of Congress were now gathering signatures for their own letter to Bush, "asking him to take some action." *Reuters*

United, US Airways scrap merger plans

WASHINGTON—United Airlines and US Airways Group Inc. abandoned their bid to join forces and create the world's biggest carrier on Friday after the US Justice Department said it would go to court to block the deal.

United's parent company, UAL Corp., agreed to pay a $50-million break-up fee and US Airways said it would begin developing its future strategy after the companies' last-ditch effort to win antitrust approval failed.

The Justice Department's antitrust division said it would oppose the $4.3-billion acquisition by UAL because of concerns the combination of the No. 2 and No. 6 US airlines would mean higher fares and fewer choices for air travelers.

The acquisition of US Airways would crimp competition on more than 30 airline routes, the department said. It had been expecting 12 states to also oppose the deal.

"If this acquisition were allowed to proceed, millions of consumers would have little choice but to pay higher fares and accept lower-quality air service," Atty. General John Ashcroft said in a statement.

The agency's move came after the companies made a failed 11th-hour effort to overcome antitrust concerns before an Aug. 1 deadline the Justice Department faced for deciding whether to oppose the acquisition.

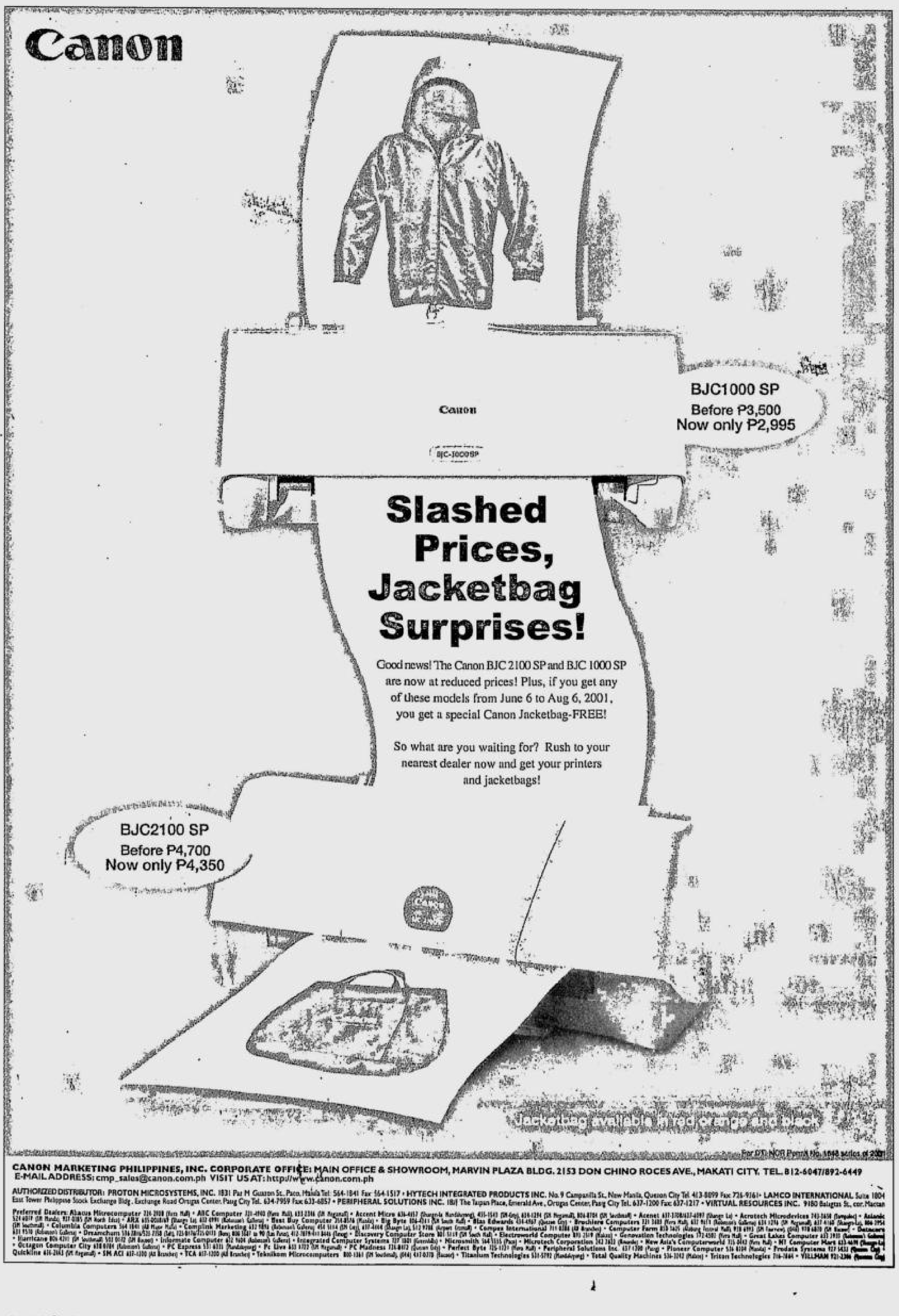
US Airways expressed disappointment at the government's decision but said it would move on.

"With today's announcement by the Department of Justice, US Airways and its employees will be moving forward with a plan to address the competitive environment," the airline said in a statement.

Under US antitrust laws, the department must file suit to block any merger it believes will harm competition.

Under the deal first proposed more than a year ago, United would have paid Arlington, Virginia-based US Airways $4.3 billion in cash and would have assumed about $8 billion in debt.

United, the world's No. 2 airline, had moved to break off the deal earlier this month, citing the department's antitrust concerns but US Airways refused to drop the deal at that time. Both airlines later asked for a final Justice Department verdict. *Reuters*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BSP cuts liquidity target

BY CLARISSA S. BATINO

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas said Friday that it would cut its money supply target by 2 percentage points to 13 percent, as the economy was unlikely to pick up soon.

"The 15-percent target (in domestic liquidity) would definitely be reduced, unless the economy catches up, which is less likely. The research department is still firming up the numbers," BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura told reporters.

A person familiar with the matter said the central bank was looking at a target of 13 percent.

On Thursday, the BSP decided to raise commercial banks' liquidity reserve requirements by 2 percentage points to 9 percent.

With the statutory reserve requirement steady at 9 percent, the total reserve requirement would stand at 18 percent.

Statutory reserves should be in cash or on deposit with the central bank, while liquidity reserves can be invested in government securities yielding market rates of interest.

The central bank also reduced the amount of over-the-counter dollar sales of commercial banks to $5,000 from $10,000.

Both measures took effect Friday.

But the central bank's policy-making Monetary Board kept the tiering system for its overnight borrowing facility intact. Such a move was seen as a way to cap an expected rise in inflation from an increase in money supply and to siphon away excess liquidity, which could be used to speculate on the peso.

Peso to recover to 47, 'prophet of boom' says

BY DORIS C. DUMLAO

DIRECT foreign investments would lift the peso to as high as 47 to a dollar in the second half of the year, University of Asia and the Pacific economist Bernardo Villegas said Friday.

In a news conference, Villegas, the country's "prophet of boom," brushed aside fears of a major export slowdown, saying it was still possible for the country to attain a 6.7-percent growth in exports this year.

"If the inflows of foreign direct investments turn especially bullish in the second half of 2001, the peso-dollar rate could strengthen to 47 to a dollar. Although this may sound overly optimistic, the most recent Big Mac index of The Economist showed that the Philippine peso is undervalued by a whopping 54 percent in relation to the US dollar," he said.

"The recent depreciation of the peso to more than 54 to a dollar is mainly due to external forces like the yen and Thai baht depreciation and not to any inherent weaknesses in the Philippine economy," he added.

Villegas said investments from blue-chip companies abroad like America Online, Caltex and Barnesandnoble.com should help augment the country's dollar supply and give the peso relief from speculative attacks.

"Given the annual growth rate of 41 percent between 1993 and 1999, Philippine software exports in 2001 are expected to grow at more than 50 percent. In addition to call centers, there is a proliferation of medium-sized companies exporting medical transcription, finance and accounting, animation, human resources, website design and other IT-enabled services," he said.

BSP to allow buy-back deals

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas and the Bureau of Treasury will sign with banks and investment houses a memorandum of agreement legitimizing "buyback deals" to provide lenders with a cheaper option to boost liquidity during times of heavy withdrawals.

BSP Deputy Governor Alberto Reyes said the BSP, BTr, Bankers Association of the Philippines and the Investment Houses Association of the Philippines were still firming up details of the agreement.

The agreement would allow banks to temporarily sell their government securities to other banks or investment houses without the burden of a reserve requirement, Reyes said.

A buyback arrangement refers to a temporary sale of any security wherein the seller has an obligation to buy back the asset at a pre-agreed time and price.

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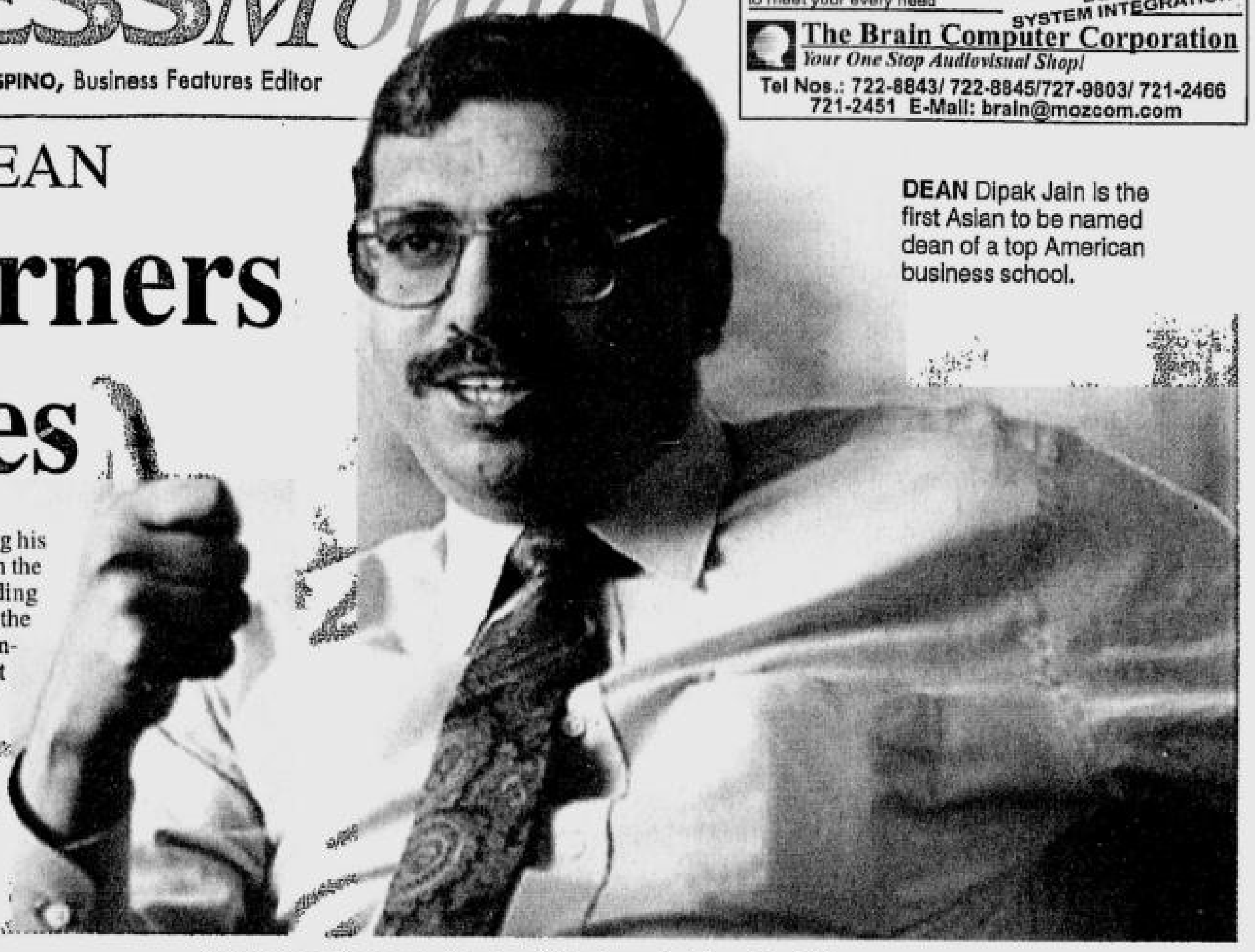

DEAN Dipak Jain is the first Asian to be named dean of a top American business school.

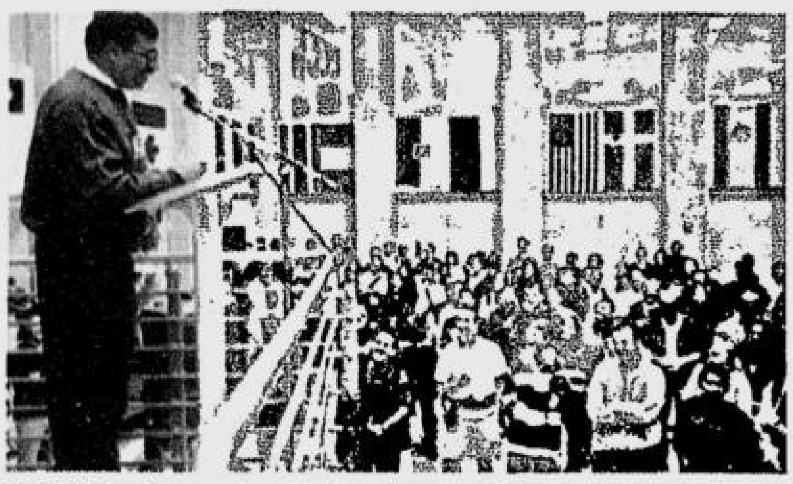
BY TINA ARCEO-DUMLAO

MANAGEMENT styles have evolved considerably since the time when business schools started offering master's degrees in business administration more than 50 years ago.

Managers who controlled everything from his desk gave way to those who were able to effectively delegate authority. Conglomerates gave way to small but specialized companies, and lately, the Internet has changed virtually everything in the way business is conducted.

One thing, however, has remained the same and that is the need to invest in people, and in helping employees move up the ladder. In these times when many corporations are wealthier than some countries, human resource management has fallen by the wayside.

Those who help their subordinates become better people are the real managers, according to Dipak C. Jain, the new dean of the Kellogg Graduate School of Management of the Northwestern University.


DEAN Jain always sets aside time to meet with students.

Jain said in an interview during his short visit with Kellogg alumni in the Philippines last week, that finding the best methods of harnessing the rich human resource of the companies poses one of the biggest challenges facing managers in the future.

"This is one of my passions. I believe that the role of management is not just to go up the ladder but to get people to go up with them. Sometimes we focus too much on making corporations improve, not so much the individuals," Jain stresses.

To achieve this, Jain says managers of the future should have superior communication skills, having the ability to get their thoughts across and getting people to do them. And the first step to communicating is listening.

"You have to be a listener first before you can be a good communicator," Jain says.

A good manager must also have an eye for good talent, to be able to spot a person with a good potential for growth. It is like seeing the diamond in the rough. He says it is the manager's duty to cut away at the layers of stone to get to the jewel within.

"Managers must also have passion for what they are doing. They will not do well if they have no heart for what they are doing and they must also have the desire to help the people around them," he says.

Another requisite, he says, is for managers to have the desire for continuous learning no matter how high they are in the corporate ladder. They must know that they don't know everything, especially these days when the nature of corporations is changing almost by the day.

Jain says business schools like Kellogg continue to change their curriculum to adapt to these changes as quickly as possible.

At Kellogg, Jain says they are looking at new majors or areas of concentration to suit the demands of today. One of these new areas is biotechnology and media management or knowing how to leverage information for increased profitability.

"We also noticed that companies these days want short-term MBA programs for their executives and they want them tailor-fit for their needs. Management education has definitely become a lifelong activity," he says.

Jain is expected to implement many changes at Kellogg following his appointment last July 1 as Kellogg's top administrator. He is the first Asian and one of the youngest at 43 years old to head the prestigious graduate school for business.

Being an Indian, he is also the first non-Caucasian to head any of the top business schools in the United States. Kellogg is ranked among the top five graduate schools in the US, along with Wharton and Harvard.

On a personal note, the gracious Jain says his appointment was announced in his native India via full-page articles that made him something of a celebrity. He adds that his appointment was met by a lot of enthusiasm by Indians as well as other Asians.

"I should give credit to Kellogg for having the courage to appoint someone like me. Many people tell me that appointing someone with color would not have happened in any other school," he says.

The Kellogg business school includes among its alumni Besty Holden, CEO of the Kraft Group; Harry Kramer of Baxter Pharmaceuticals; Don Nelson of US Cellular; and Chris Galvin of Motorola.

In the Philippines, the alumni include Gloria Tan Climaco, former head of SGV and Co.; Evelyn Singson of Asian Hospital; Cesar Purisima, current head of SGV; and Lorenzo Tan of the United Coconut Planters Bank.

As the new dean, he says he would like to inject some of the Asian values to the American business system.

"I believe that Western businesses have a lot to learn about how Asians run their businesses. It is a wonderful area for research especially on how decisions are made because it is very different," he says.

The family-owned businesses in Asia, for instance, base their decisions more on intuition rather than fact. Multinational firms, on the other hand, are less budget-conscious than the family corporations because technically they are not spending their money.

Jain says he is conscious of the challenges he faces as he steers Kellogg in these trying times, but he is confident that he will make good, and he credits the Asian in him.

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Use of voucher in education and its impact on the poor

MAPping THE FUTURE

Ricardo S. Pascua

IN MANY of the gatherings where I speak, I usually ask the question: How many of you pay taxes? In reply, I get almost everyone raising his hand. Then I ask, "How many of you who pay your taxes will deliberately send your children to a public school if you can afford to send them to a private school?" (We are, of course talking about the normal public schools, and not about elite public high schools such as the UP Prep High School, the Philippine Science High School, Manila Science High School, and others.)

I have never gotten anyone raising his hand. I find this somewhat disturbing. And I ask further, don't you think there is something wrong here? First, the public school system is supposed to be free. And second, your taxes should have paid already for the basic education your children should get as provided by law.

Why is it that none of you takes advantage of this free basic education that the government provides through the public school system? Do you realize that you have paid your taxes twice?

Of course, with the current economic situation and the depletion of many families' income, many have been forced to send their children to the public schools. Still, many parents continue to hesitate to take advantage of the free basic education the government provides through the public school system.

Why is this so?

It looks like many parents believe that the quality of education acquired from the public school system is inferior to the quality of education provided by the private schools. There are many theories on why this is so.

"Disconnect"

My own personal view is that there is a fundamental "disconnect" between the service provider (the public schools) and the service recipients (the parents) in our present system. And why is there a fundamental "disconnect?" I believe that in the existing system, the service provider is not beholden to the customer.

The customer does not have a say as to whether the provider remains in business or not. The server does not care whether or not he is able to provide the level of quality required by his customer. There is no compelling reason for him to improve and compete. He is assured that those who cannot afford private education will just flock to him.

Therefore, the server can thumb his nose at the market since he cannot be made to fade away or become extinct.

The public school system can never get the parents who can afford to pay for the basic education of their children to patronize its service. The poor who have to patronize the service must feel that they don't have any power because they don't have any choice.

They are doomed to make do with a system wanting in quality. The system that we now have, therefore, is fundamentally flawed because of this disconnection.

How then do you fix something like this? You have to reconnect the parties. Something that is disjointed must be rejoined. Something that causes the system to malfunction must be corrected or replaced.

You, therefore, should give the service consumer a mode by which he can have a direct say if the system should function and continue. You should give the parents the means by which they can have the ability to choose the schools that will offer the basic education their children get.

The present manner in which the government fulfills its constitutional mandate to provide free basic education ties the parents up to a system that in essence cannot provide the quality of education they would want for their children. Neither can it prepare the majority of our kids for a highly competitive global environment now and in the future.

This is the fundamental basis of the radical proposal that we now offer. And this is for government to fulfill its constitutional mandate of providing each and every Filipino child access to free basic education through the voucher-funded education system. There would be objections. Almost any proposed change attracts objections. But what does this radical proposal constitute?

Change in mindset

Well, it requires a change in mindset in the way the government tries to fulfill its constitutional mandate. It ought not to be by providing the service itself. At present, the service providers (the government school functionaries) need not pay attention to the likes or dislikes as well as to the problems and criticisms of its customers, and it is under no compulsion to alter or improve the system within which it operates.

Over time, there would exist a widening gap between what the provider of the service offers and what its recipient really needs or desires. This has already happened.

How do you then turn things around? First it would require the government to redefine its constitutional mandate. The government can decide to pay for the service rather than provide the service itself. This can be done by giving the parents the means to pay for alternative educational services, leaving the existing system to shrink to a manageable level and accrediting those who can offer better quality services to the market.

The government must distribute this means to all parents with school-age children and allow them to choose the school, which they believe can provide their children the quality of education they should get.

This is the basic philosophy of the proposal and why it is grounded on a fundamentally sound theoretical framework (You have to connect the service provider to the service consumer. You have to treat the consumer as someone you sell to in order to ensure that the provider puts in effort, dedication and hard work to market his goods.)

The voucher-funded education is a well-tried system. It is a system where the government provides compensation to families to enable their children to enter the private or public school of their choice. The government in essence transfers its powers to determine which schools to subsidize to the parents and the students.

Voucher system

Many developed and developing countries practice the system. Developed countries such as Canada, Sweden, the Netherlands, United Kingdom and Japan employ some variants of the voucher system. South and Central American countries such as Chile, Colombia, Puerto Rico and Guatemala also practice the system.

The State of Wisconsin started the system in the US. Developing countries like Bangladesh, Belize and Lesotho also have their own voucher systems in providing basic education to select groups of their citizens.

Each country has its own version of the voucher system, specific rationale and objectives, range of recipients in terms of economic class, sources of funding, regulatory practices, measures of achievements as well as problems.

A Philippine version can be designed to suit the requirements of Filipino parents, with the major objective, perhaps, of improving the access of the poor to quality education.

If we accept that the fundamentals of the voucher system are right, that the theoretical framework is sound, then we can figure out together how to translate this fundamentally sound principle into a better system that will significantly improve the current state of basic education in our country. Nobody says that we can do it overnight. However, the change in mindset has to happen now.

All change happens first in people's imagination. His paradigms and patterns of thought must change before anything outside of him changes. This is why we are trying to convince you that there are fundamental flaws in the way the present system works.

We have to change and change radically, and we have to be convinced about it. For unless we are convinced, we are not going to move. We are going to dig in and defend the entrenched present. We are not going to take the risk unless we fully believe and understand the reasons for the change.

We can be lulled by the fact that this is the way the Americans taught us for over 50 years. However, shouldn't we worry about the results?

The results, of course, are scary. As an example, in the Third International Math and Science Study (TIMSS) conducted in 1996, our country ranked 39th in Math and 40th in Science out of 41 countries. A repeat study three years later showed basically the same results with the Philippines ranking 36th out of 38 countries, lagging behind neighboring countries—Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia.

Yet ironically, the country is cited as having the highest literacy and enrolment rates in Southeast Asia. We produce more college graduates than Singapore, Sweden and Switzerland combined. These statistics, however, do not reveal the level of proficiency and know-how our graduates have acquired.

My experience tells me that large numbers of our graduates do not have the ability to communicate well, in writing or orally, in either *Tagalog* or English. Many cannot construct grammatically correct sentences let alone paragraphs.

They have little appreciation of the world around them. They cannot communicate their thoughts. This is because, fundamentally, the public school system did not give them the appropriate foundation of knowledge and skills essential in preparing them for life.

IT center?

Ironically, too, our country claims to be the center of information technology in the region. We tell the world that our competitive advantage is a population with a large pool of good, trainable knowledge-worker material.

With the kind of basic education a large number of our students get, how can we be assured that they are indeed prepared for this competitive environment? How can we claim with confidence that we have the right human resources to meet the requirements of the global economy?

The government must accept that we have to change. We have to connect the service provider to the customer. We have to give the customer the ability to tell the provider that "your service stinks" as well as the flexibility and means to acquire the service somewhere else. We must not insist on keeping a failed system at the expense of the future generation that will come after us.

Will the voucher system help the poor? Through the voucher system, the poor will be given the opportunity to get educated better and to get the appropriate skills. They will also get themselves empowered, giving them the flexibility to choose the quality of education they will give to their children.

There are poverty studies that say that every year a poor guy is in our public school, you are giving him an opportunity to become poorer. This conclusion was reached because given the quality of education he gets from the public schools, the poor are then condemned to perpetual "poorness."

But if you give him a chance to choose, then you give him the ability to play in a leveled field, because the poor will then have the ability to access a better basic education from the private schools and improve himself. The government must then provide them a voucher value that will be sufficient to cover for their entire school needs.

Looking for options

Indeed, there are a host of possibilities. There are many policy schemes, options and processes that can be studied and considered. But most importantly, it is essential that we connect the service provider to the service re-

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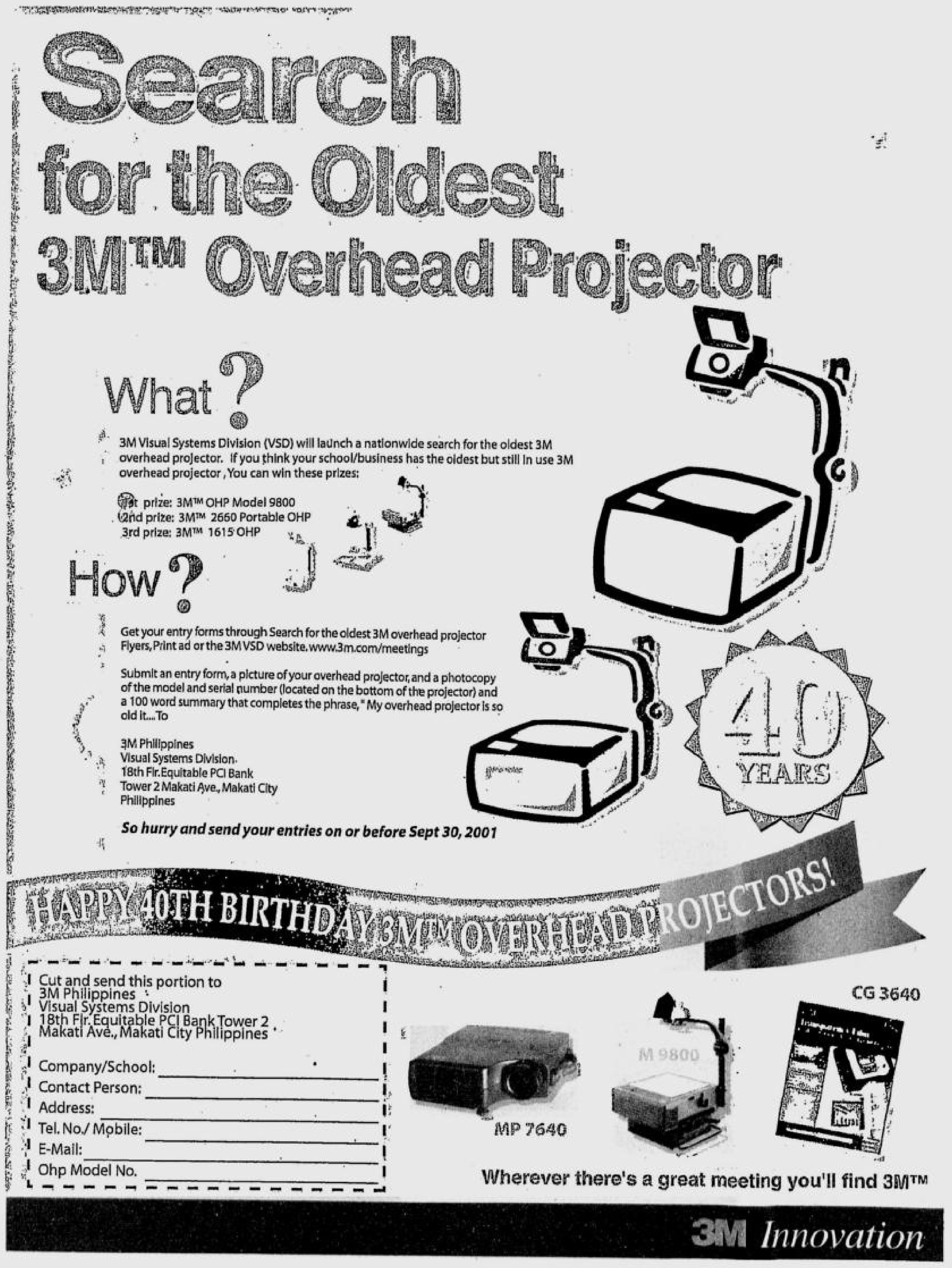

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"Trees that have grown tall and sturdy aren't cut down, they're pruned. In like manner, in successfully managing companies today, managers mustn't discard completely the old values, principles, and practices of management giants in the past which have brought us where we are now. These giants— the Fords, the Chryslers, the Citicorps and, in the Philippines, the San Miguel Corps., the Unilabs. The Ayalas for instance wouldn't be where they are now if not for the strong, highly principled and ethical practices of these companies' past managers."

Words of wisdom from an old, wizened management specialist? Specialist, perhaps, but certainly not old and wizened. Those are words by which Roy Katigbak Evalle, vice president of Nextel Communication Philippines Inc.'s Human Resources Development and Administrative Group, lives and performs his work by.

Evalle, 49, finished business administration from the De La Salle University. He had a short stint with US Industries, the company that originally imported Caterpillar heavy equipment into the country, moving on to 3M Philippines where he was hired as salary administrator.

He quickly rose up the corporate ladder and in 1979—by then, the marketing services manager—the first of a series of corporate headhunters in the region knocked on his door and courted him out of 3M to become personnel resources manager of another multinational outfit, NCR Corp. (Philippines).

He initially took care of planning, organizing and leading of the labor relations, compensation and benefits, and recruitment and sales departments of the company.

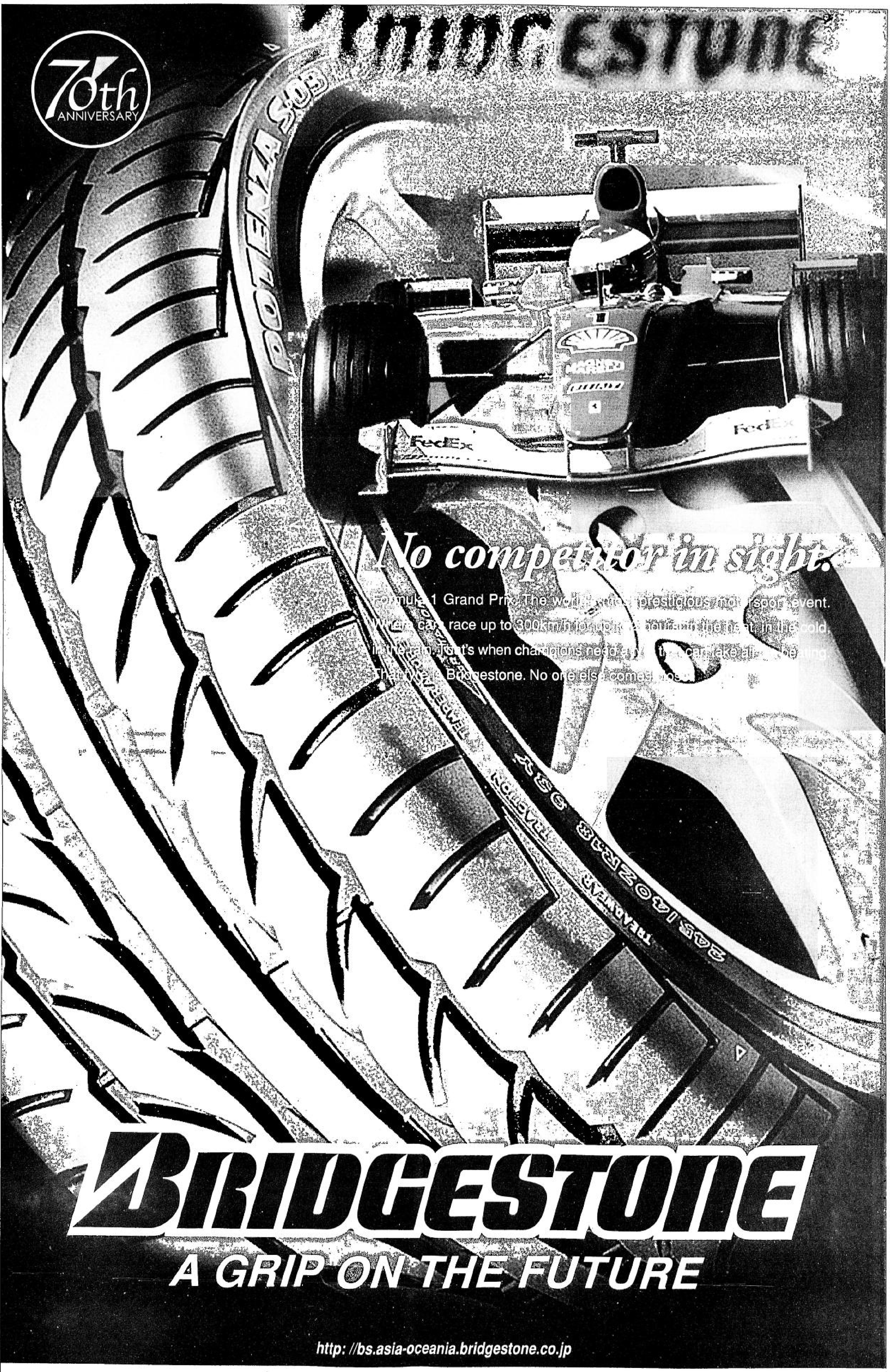
Evalle spent the next two years traveling extensively through the US and Canada visiting and observing operations of NCR branches there as well as in the Far East and the Asean region. His stint at NCR headquarters was part of the company's executive training and succession development program by which executives showing exemplary performance were "loaned" from various parts of the region and assigned regional work in the US.

In Evalle's case, he was exposed to hands-on inter-regional human resources functions with emphasis on compensation and benefits, executive recruitment, industrial testing and management development training.

Subsequently, Evalle was preyed upon by headhunters, causing him to move on to other companies like Burroughs Ltd. (Phils.) where he was human resources manager in 1983; Data General (Phils.) in 1985 where he rose to regional compensation and benefits manager of the company's international manufacturing operations (regional) based in Singapore in 1987; The Dharmala group in Jakarta, Indonesia, of which he was deputy general manager in 1989; then technical advisor with the rank of human resources general manager for Bank Dharmala in 1990.

In 1995, he transferred to

FOR/ C7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Despite slump, insurance is up

By Reynaldo A. De Dios

THE PHILIPPINE insurance market performed creditably well in 1999 despite the continuing economic downturn attributable to the Asian economic crisis, which started in mid-1997.

On an overall basis, the assets of the market rose by 16.28 percent from P157.5457 billion in 1998 to 183.1953 billion in 1999. Liabilities on the other hand increased lower at 14.46 percent from P96.9611 billion in 1998 to P110.9394 billion in 1999 such that the market's net worth improved to P72.2559 billion in 1999 from P60.5846 billion in 1998, a gain of 19.09 percent.

In claims experience, there was a slight upward trend as total life payments and non-life losses incurred increased from P13.5407 billion in 1998 to P13.745 billion in 1999, an increase of only 1.51 percent.

Comparatively, the life insurance sector fared better than the non-life sector in 1999. Its assets grew by 19.05 percent, liabilities by 18.67 percent whilst net worth improved by 19.34 percent.

In operations, the life sector produced a premium income of P22.4030 billion in 1999, which reflected a growth rate of 15.73 percent over that of the P19.3586 billion in 1998. On the other hand, benefit payments increased by only 12.26 percent from P7.5506 billion in 1998 to P8.4767 billion in the following year. The number of policies in force as of Dec. 31, 1999 stood at 3,630,084, a growth of 5.74 percent over the 3,432,978 policies issued in the previous year. Significantly, the number of insurance certificates under group policies escalated from 9,032,978 in 1998 to 12,002,931 in 1999 or an appreciable increase of 32.88 percent.

The non-life sector, which includes the four professional reinsurance companies experienced modest gains in its performance. Its assets increased by 10.49 percent, liabilities by 5.42 percent resulting in an improved net worth gain of 16.61 percent.

Total gross premiums written by this sector amounted to P18.3447 billion in 1999, which is slightly lower by 1.86 percent in comparison with the P18.6928 written the year before. Premiums earned (after reinsurance and reserve requirements) reduced minimally by 4.54 percent from P11.8774 billion in 1998 to P11.3379 billion in 1999. The reasons for this development are the intense competition, sharp rate reductions supported by global reinsurance markets because of over-capacity, lesser construction and business activity as well as the reduction in motor vehicle sales. Fortunately, losses incurred also came down from P5.9901 billion in 1998 to P5.2685 in 1999, resulting in an overall non-life sector loss ratio of 46.47 percent compared with 50.43 percent in 1998. *(The author is a risk and management consultant.)*

TV network boosts backroom operations

IN TIME for its 51st year in the broadcast industry, entertainment, news and information giant GMA Network Inc. recently signed a partnership that would fully computerize its back-office systems.

GMA-7 has partnered with e-business software provider Oracle Systems Philippines Inc., along with Arthur Andersen (Andersen), Progressive Software Inc. (Prosoft) and Datastream, for the implementation of its enterprise resource planning (ERP) software.

"In our battle for market leadership in the broadcast industry, we have to forge alliances with the best in the business. I am confident that with these partners on our side, it will be easier for GMA Network to become the No. 1 broadcaster and content provider in the Philippines in the soonest possible time," said lawyer Felipe L. Gozon, GMA president and CEO.

The completely Internet-enabled Oracle ERP solution, called Oracle Applications Release 11i, will cover financials, purchasing, human resources and payroll systems, and will provide intelligence tools to manage corporate business processes. The system is expected to be up and running within the next nine months.

"Together with our partners, we have a lot of things in common with GMA. We are one of the leaders of the Internet. We help manage information that help our clients collect, store and disseminate information over various channels. The directions GMA is taking help provide content through non-traditional means. A good example of this is their partnership with INQUIRER in a project called INQ7. This is in parallel with what we do with the Internet," cited Bernard Y. Yu, Oracle managing director.

The automation of GMA-7's business-critical operations is expected to reduce costs and improve efficiencies. Through the Oracle Business Intelligence software, information can be delivered to C-level executives in the shortest possible time thus enabling them to make critical business decisions quickly.

As the business consulting partner, Andersen will provide its management consulting expertise for the project. Prosoft will provide the technical expertise and fulfill the license requirements for Oracle, as well as the license and implementation services for Datastream. The MP2 solution of Datastream will address the asset maintenance concerns of GMA.

"We, in Andersen, are very pleased and excited to work with GMA, Oracle and Prosoft in this very significant endeavor," said Medel T. Nera, Andersen partner and head of business consulting division. "We have a topnotch team. I am sure we'll make this project a success."

Mike S. Mapa, president of Prosoft reiterated, "We, at Prosoft, are confident that together with Oracle and Andersen we will help GMA in becoming No. 1 in news and entertainment, and content provision in the broadcasting industry."

PROGRESSIVE Software Inc. chairman Raymond D. Go with Andersen partner Vincent Abella

GMA Network president and CEO Atty. Felipe L. Gozon and Oracle Systems Philippines Inc. managing director Bernard Y. Yu

ANDERSEN partner and head of business consulting division Medel T. Nera and Progressive Software Inc. president Mike S. Mapa

ANDERSEN senior director Jack L. Arambulo, Progressive Software Inc. sales manager Kent E. Sitaca and Oracle Systems Philippines Inc. channels manager Nello Garcia

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Bank links credit with remittance

EQUITABLE-PCIBank's two decades-long binge in the remittance service is poised to be a potential cudgel of financing assistance to thousands of overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) seeking future livelihood and investment opportunities back home.

"As we have been known for our fast, dependable and safe remittance service, apparently, *tapos na kami doon* and given *na lahat iyan*. Express Padala is not just a remittance product linked to the regular payment delivery mechanism," affirmed Rene J. Buenaventura, Equitable-PCIBank executive vice president and retail banking group head.

According to him, the Express Padala remittance package is refashioning into a basket mix of potential financing services for OFWs. "Perhaps, after several years of stints abroad, these overseas workers could become future entrepreneurs with the various business options that Equitable-PCI Bank is ready to assist them with," added Buenaventura.

As it continues its leadership role in the remittance market, Express Padala's remittance volume has already surged to a 15-percent market share. This benchmark remittance volume is mainly due to its major presence and leading edge in service to millions of OFWs working in the Middle East and Europe particularly in Saudi Arabia, Italy, Germany and in many parts of Asia.

However, while other major rivals are still preoccupied with the traditional cash dispensing payment schemes, Equitable-PCIBank is now readying itself to offer a bevy of credit assistance and loan products that could be intimately linked to remittances.

"We are modifying other well-known loan products like Own-A-Home to make them viable financing programs of Express Padala, eventually to help the entrepreneurial sector of Filipino workers augment their future livelihood and investment plans when they return from their overseas assignments," explained Buenaventura.

Banking with these overseas workers through Equitable-PCIBank's Express Padala is destined to solve common miseries over OFWs' doable use of their savings into viable livelihood activities.

Meanwhile, Equitable-PCIBank pursues its thrust to provide convenience to OFWs and their families. Equitable-PCIBank FASTeller's expanding network allows remittance recipients to withdraw through 436 ATMs all over the Philippines.

Use of voucher . . .

(From page C2)

cipient, which does not now exist.

Different configurations can be designed and constructed to respond to our unique culture and circumstances. These could be part of the refinements of our version of the voucher system. The voucher-funded education systems of other countries, such as Chile and Colombia, can be studied well and we can draw some lessons as well as avoid the problems, inequities and failures that these systems experienced.

What is most important is that we do change our mindset now. We have to accept that the existing system has failed. All the numerous studies that have been previously conducted that recommend tinkering with the system cannot and will never improve the results since the system itself is fundamentally flawed. We must believe that we need to change now, and that we should all act together, now.

(The author is president of Management Association of the Philippines and president and CEO of Metro Pacific Corp. and Fort Bonifacio Development Corp. This article contains the speech delivered by the author as one of the speakers at the Asian Institute of Management's Washington SyCip Policy Center-sponsored National Conference on Prosperity Building for the Poor on June 25, 2001. The MAP Secretariat and the author may be reached via mapsec@ globe.com.ph.)

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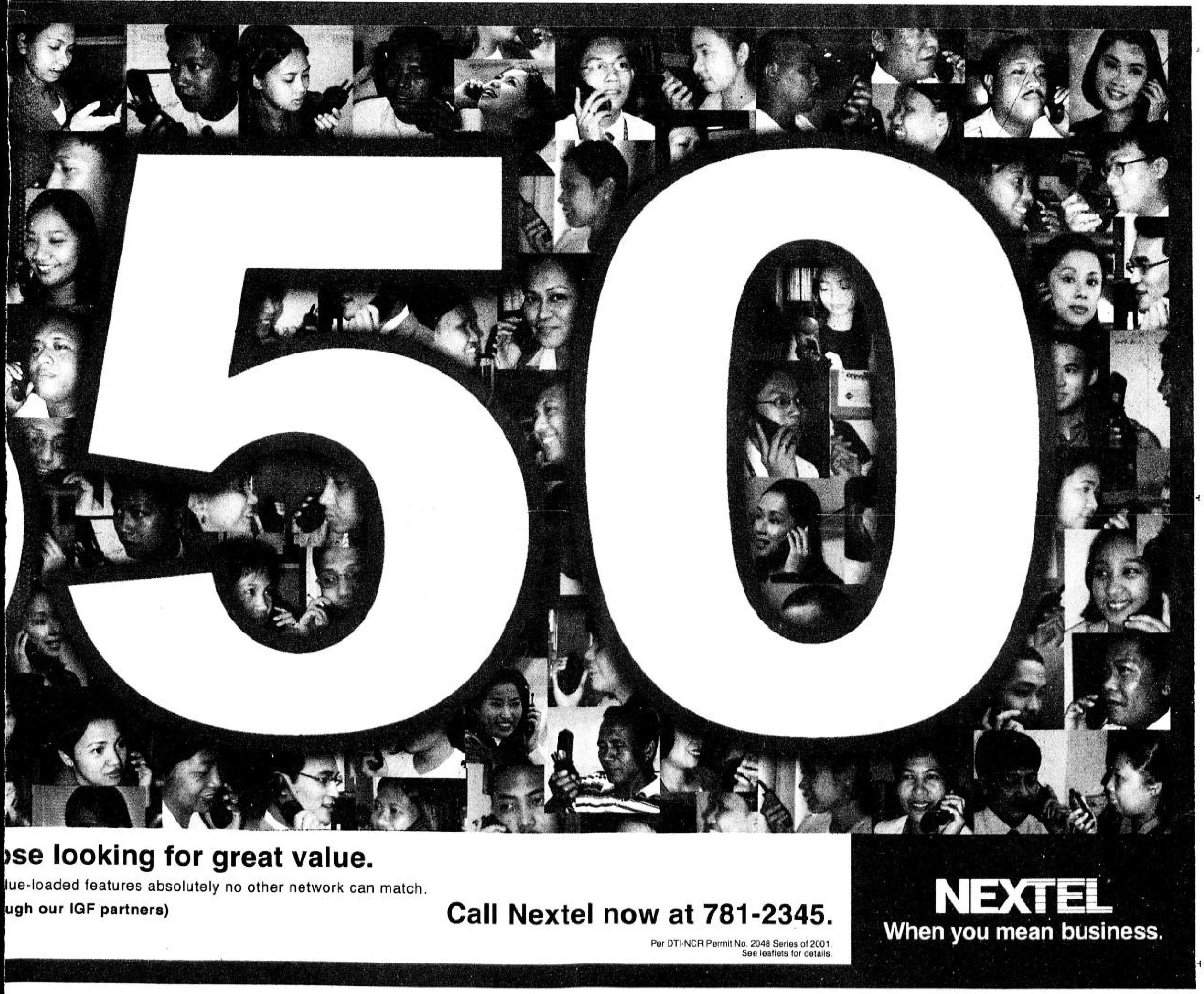
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MOVEMENTS

Bank appoints new officers

HUANG

EQUITABLE PCI Bank, one of the country's largest banks, recently appointed Eduardo J. Katigbak Jr. as executive vice president and group head for operations to strengthen its management team and reinforce its leadership in major business lines.

Katigbak will have direct supervision over technology, ransaction processing (formerly operations division), business systems and centralized administration. He will be reporting directly to the president.

Katigbak holds a BS degree in Business Administration from University of the Philippines.

Carmen G. Huang, on the other hand was appointed senior vice president and chief of staff to the president and CEO.

Prior to joining the bank, Huang was EVP and chief financial officer of Crown Equities Inc., where she led and was actively involved in negotiations for various projects developed by the company.

Ricardo V. Martin will take on the role as SVP and comptroller. He will have director supervision over financial comptrollership.

Before Equitable, Martin was chief finance officer and SVP of the financial control group of Philippine Savings Bank.

Martin holds a BS Degree in Management Engineering from the Ateneo de Manila University.

O & M appoints new head for Philippines

HEKKELMAN

OGILVY & Mather Asia Pacific recently announced the arrival of new heads of country in the Philippines and Malaysia.

Bob Hekkelman, who previously worked in O&M's Amsterdam and Helsinki offices, arrives to take over the reins in Manila as group managing director of the agency.

Hekkelman comes to the Philippines as Stephen Fraser, who has run the Manila office for three years, is being transferred to Ogilvy & Mather Malaysia to take over the Group Managing Director post in Kuala Lumpur.

Hekkelman's appointment is timely as O&M Philippines moves into a new period of development.

"As the country starts to right itself and a degree of optimism returns, we're seeing some new opportunities for growth and development," said Tim Isaac, O&M Asia Pacific vice chairman.

He added, "Stephen has laid a solid foundation from which we can build the Ogilvy & Mather brand. Bob comes to us full of experience and new ideas and is well-suited to growing our share significantly in the coming years."

HBO Asia promotes three pioneers

HBO Asia is pleased to announce three key senior management promotions effective immediately.

Lawrence Yuen is promoted to senior vice president and general counsel, legal, business affairs and human resource. Vincent Teo is now SVP for technology and operations while Roger Tan is promoted to senior director of engineering.

Yuen joined HBO in 1993 as in-house counsel. In 1995, he was promoted to VP for legal and human resources. He continued to move up due to his ability to juggle multiple functions, a testimony to his abilities as a skilled manager.

Teo has been with HBO for nine years, and he has been able to keep the company at the forefront of technological advancement. He spearheaded the transformation of HBO's facilities from an analog to a fully digital system.

Tan is another pioneer who joined the company in 1992 as senior engineer and rose the ranks. He was instrumental in building and maintaining a strong broadcast infrastructure to support business growth over the years.

Bank creates care unit for non-performing loans

AMONG the major casualties of the 1997 Asian financial crisis were banks all across the region that found themselves having to contend with loan portfolios that were suddenly far from desirable.

Before the economic contagion was alleviated, it wreaked havoc on the operations of numerous business entities, most of which used to be clients of good standing of their respective creditor banks just before the market turned bad. Unable to earn the money they needed to settle their obligations, the companies eventually left their banks with swollen non-performing loan (NPL) figures.

To ensure survival, banks had to make a tough decision. Some had no choice but to cut-off ties with former clients. Others focused their efforts in helping their customers weather the storm. Through well-crafted restructuring strategies, these banks stood by their clients and even managed to realize some concrete gains. Among these banking institutions is the financial services group UCPB.

"We value the relationships that we have with our customers. Whenever things turn bad, whether it be then, now or in the future, we always make it a point to study and see how we can restructure or rehabilitate our clients' loan obligations allowing them to eventually bounce back into shape," said UCPB vice president and head of asset management, Jaime W. Jacinto.

To respond to its customers' need for debt settlement assistance, the UCPB management put up its Institutional Recovery Management Division (IRMD) in 1999 to assist clients in restructuring their loans and, at the same time, draft and implement strategies that will make the non-earning assets earn.

UCPB became one of the first institutions in the country to put together an arm that focuses on developing and implementing better alternatives on some of its acquired properties. The properties managed by the group are those that the bank believes to have high potential but cannot be disposed of under prevailing conditions without severe discounts.

COMPLETED renovation works at Taft Centrale Exchange.

"IRMD is like a hospital's ICU or intensive care unit. It's where we try to restore really sick accounts back to good health. To do this, we try to make these ICU patients, in this case our clients, cooperate with us by following a set of recovery strategies that invariably come with certain sacrifices," said Jacinto.

Unfortunately, the business environment's volatile character in recent years has been a major stumbling block that prevented the bank from entering restructuring arrangements. In these situations where the bank and its client cannot restructure under mutually beneficial terms, the bank has to resort to other remedies.

One such remedy is for the bank to allow the clients to reduce their loans by accepting payments in kind, either via services or products. Another is accept settlement via property/ies after an evaluation is done. In case of settlement via property, extra care is given because the bank will have to assume other obligations such as managing the properties.

"In the course of our recovery efforts, we have experienced a lot of resistance and denial. Of course we have to understand that these clients did not go into business to fail. In these instances, we can only empathize and appreciate our clients' predicament and find a mutually beneficial solution that can address, as best it can, this predicament," Jacinto explained.

Experience has shown that payment through services allows a more immediate offsetting of the customer's loan obligations. A payment through property is more complicated as it transfers the task of managing the property to the acquirer, which is the bank.

Among the recent acquisitions of the UCPB-IRMD are: a five-star beach recreation project South of Manila; a couple of idle but prime vacant lots, which were converted to a paid parking facility and a passenger terminal with commercial operations opportunities, respectively; and a hotel and mall complex in Manila. In the case of the hotel, the bank replaced its operator and re-positioned it to cater to the higher paying clientele.

On the other hand, to improve the mall's patronage the bank re-engineered its look, tenant mix, etc. Jacinto declared these approaches were undertaken to enhance the value of the acquired assets and/or to turn the idle assets into earning assets. These creative ventures were done to allow the bank to buy time until the market recovers or until the time is right to sell the assets at the right price.

"IRMD is composed of people with various areas of expertise. We're not hard-line bankers. We have a pool of architects, a mall expert, some retail specialists to package these properties so that we'll have an easier time selling them. We have two choices. One is to sell the property on an as-is-where-is basis. On the other hand, we can also offer them an ongoing business concern using the properties. The latter, we think, is more attractive," he said.

It is because of these initiatives undertaken by bank management through the IRMD that UCPB is able to help its clients as best it could and at the same time take a proactive approach in dealing with its acquired assets. UCPB management's decision to put in place its IRMD proved to be a step towards the right direction, after all.

"We now get calls from those whose loans we restructured and/or settled in the past, thanking us for our assistance. It is a good feeling being of help to the very clients who support our bank," Jacinto ended.

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Chairman, the shareholders are revolting!

LONDON—"It is now your chance to ask questions. Can I ask you to be as brief as possible please," BT chairman Sir Christopher Bland asked the sea of disgruntled shareholders crammed into the hall.

It is every executive's worst nightmare—the annual shareholders meeting—that once-a-year chance for small investors to have their say and for the board to grin and bear it.

And with the share prices of most British companies in the doldrums, this year's gatherings are proving a test of endurance for even the most silver-tongued bosses.

The management of telecoms companies such as BT, Marconi and Cable and Wireless have all been berated in recent days by small investors angry that the fat cats continue to cream off huge pay packages while their own investments have slumped.

"The share was at less than a pound this morning," lamented one elderly Marconi shareholder, no doubt recalling that the same share was worth 12.50 pounds less than a year ago.

"The board talks of the future in rather glowing terms. But as (John Maynard) Keynes said, in the long term we're all dead."

At BT's gathering last week, 1,300 shareholders—more than twice the usual number—filled the National Ice Center in Nottingham, giving Bland and the rest of the BT board a frosty reception.

Even for an old hand like Bland—chairman of the BBC with a string of city boardroom jobs to his name—the two-and-a-half-hour ordeal was a test of patience.

The first few grumbles, such as spelling mistakes in signs on Welsh-language phone boxes, or the cost of a phone call to New Zealand, were dealt with swiftly and calmly with a concerned look, a smile and a promise to "look into your particular case and get back to you."

But soon the heckling stepped up a gear.

"This board is too old, too inbred and too overpaid to deal with the fast-developing technologies," said David Maplin from London, to warm applause.

Bland quipped back: "I'm certainly too old to be here, but here I am. You certainly can't accuse me of being too inbred."

The crowd laughed, Bland smiled and quickly moved on to the next question.

But as the meeting wore on the shareholders became more vocal, the exchange of views franker, and the smiles on the platforms decidedly more forced.

"My lawyer is better than your lawyer," fumed Stewart Lawson, when cautioned by Bland about the tone of his suggestions that the CV of one of the directors might be erroneous.

AFP

For an . . .

(From page C2)

Citibank in Manila, where he was made vice president president/country compensation officer until 1997 when he returned to Indonesia upon accepting the vice-presidency of the human resources division of Bank Putra Surya Perkasa.

The 1998 riots in Indonesia saw an exodus of expatriates, including Evalle, leaving the country. Back in Manila, there was a short stint with the Alsons Group for Evalle, before he was swooped up again by a major executive search company based in Hong Kong for his present position in Nextel.

Going through a combination of "often painful but always rewarding" and challenging regional posting in the past 28 years through a mix of Asian Pacific and North American business cultures, Evalle does not strike you at all as the kind of person who had been steeped in the ultra-competitive world of global corporate business all of his professional life.

Unassuming

There is a quiet, unassuming air about him and while his relaxed way ofspeaking gives away his genteel background, the aggressiveness one mightassociate with someone who's risen up the corporate ladder as fast as he did is not at all evident.

But this guy is no lightweight. Recognized and acknowledged as tops by other specialists in his field, Evalle's easy mien is actually a sharpened asset. He puts people at ease fast—the better for them to open up to him and thus, the faster and easier for him to get a comprehensive grasp of their suitability for positions in the organizations he is and has been involved with.

"I've always liked people," Evalle says, in explaining why he has chosen human resources for his profession. "I'm interested in what they're doing and what else they can do; more importantly, I'm interested in what I can do to improve the things they're doing now."

"For an organization to move forward, it must hire the right people. And in considering anyone for a position, an important thing to ask is, how will this person be in five years, what will most likely be his contribution to the growth of the company he will work for?"

Global mindsets

He said he is "not exactly enamored with the Philippine economy" at present, and, believes that, perhaps, the country would be better off if it's run by excellent Filipino managers who have experience working abroad. There are several reasons for this, one being such managers would most likely have a global mindset, or an understanding of how the world outside affects the Philippine economy. Next, Evalle says, you would probably have "a heterogenous breed of managers, home-grown but trained abroad would have the best of both worlds."

These managers would also be possessed with cross-cultural skills with ability to handle effectively people from diverse backgrounds as well as leaders who have a sense of their cultural roots.

Another very important characteristic that managers should have, according to Evalle, is the spirit of generosity. "It's really magnanimity, or having the capacity for making decisions for the sake of solidarity in the organization—decisions that are good for everyone, not just for a group or for a particular person."

Most, if not all of these characteristics, are present in the present cadre of managers that run Nextel and, for Evalle, this is the reason why his being with the company is "very enriching."

He says he considers it a "signal privilege to be in a company that is run by an excellent cadre of managers, including Filipinos who are some of the most highly marketable in the region. They can work anywhere, whether in Asia or in the US and they are people who are products of the 1960s all the way to the 1990s."

Evalle sees Nextel as most likely benefiting from both new and tried-and-tested management techniques.

At the same time, he says, Nextel is lucky to have a "core group of Western managers who bring with them to Nextel experience working in Asia."

Evalle has been with Nextel Philippines since the beginning and has placed most of the local managers in their present positions. The company has over 400 employees.

Ultimately, Evalle says one of the most satisfying rewards in his profession is seeing people he recommended for employment rise up to top positions in their careers. "Some of the people I've hired are now company presidents; for instance, my six years in Indonesia saw three batches of management trainees who are now holding very senior positions in banks and/or big conglomerates."

Gift of family

Whatever successes and traits Evalle has, he attributes this to a "wonderful gift of family."

He reveres his parents, both of whom are still alive. His father, high-ranking retired Philippine Air Force officer Hortensio Guerrero Evalle of Zambales, was among those who started San Fernando Air Base in Lipa City, Batangas.

"He instilled in us the value of education,frugality and generosity; he is also a very good cook."

Evalle's mother, Jovita Katigbak, from Lipa City, is still spritely in her 80s. From her, Evalle and his siblings developed a deep religiosity and an enduring appreciation for the arts.

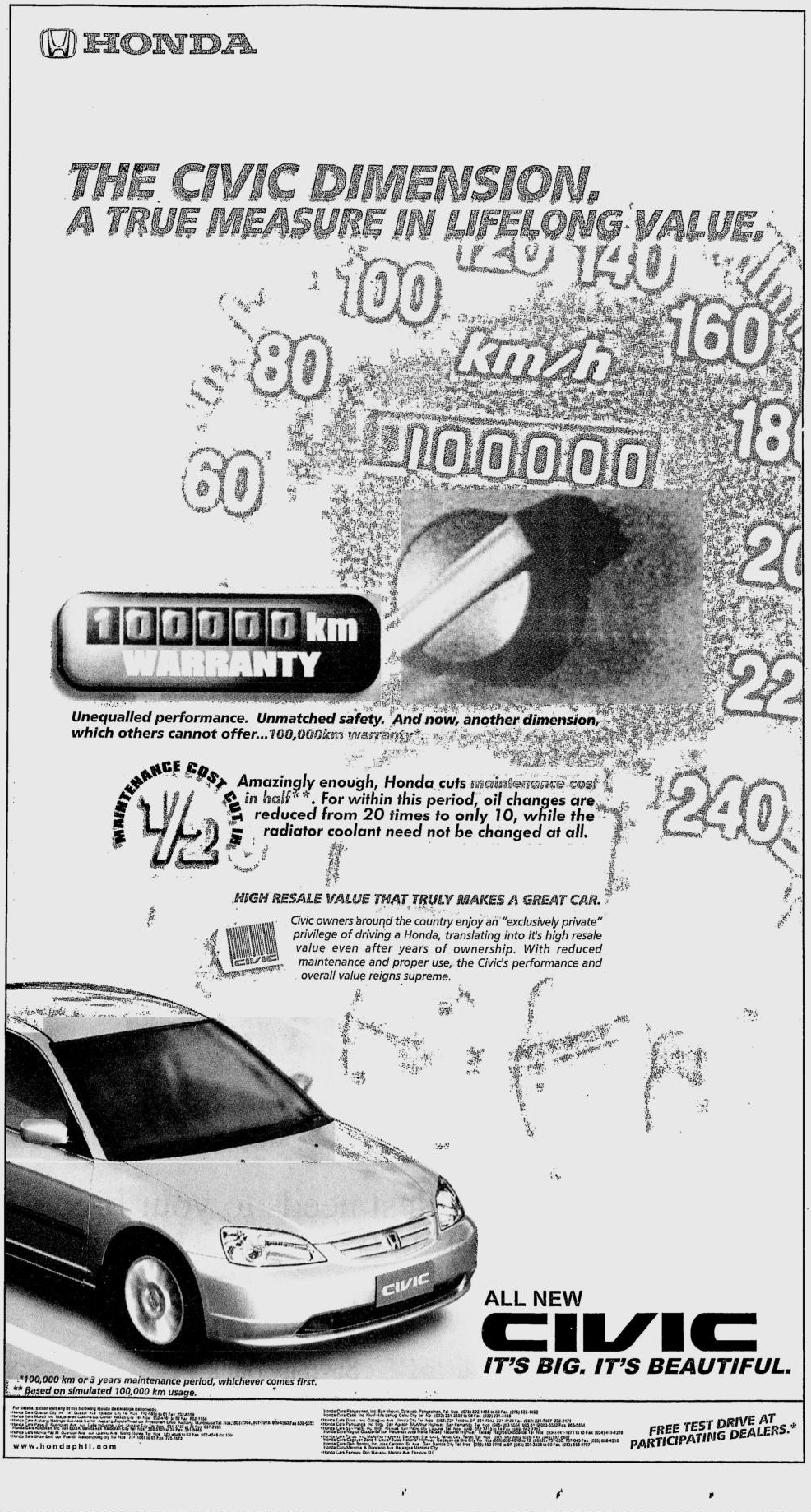
Both parents also afforded the entire family with a life of travel, which, according to Evalle, was more of an education than leisure. "We were brought abroad, not to go to Disneyland but to go to concerts and to museums."

Evalle has crisscrossed the globe extensively even as the artistic bent in him has led him to pursue, among his hobbies, painting, writing and composing songs. He has a collection of paintings with original works by a number of noted Filipino artists such as Baldemor, Raralio, Olazo, Belleza, Tiongco and various Spanish and American painters; his numerous collection of horse figurines include pieces by Daum, Swarovski, Tiffany and Lalique.

Most weekends, Evalle entertains friends and colleagues in his well-appointed home whose walls are adorned by his painting collection and the dining table a veritable feast of culinary offerings prepared and cooked by Evalle himself.

It is certainly not all work and no play for Evalle. Together with some close friends, he is what he calls "a very low-profile" major stockholder in the very successful club-cum-Mediterranean bar and restaurant PO NA NA, along Libis, Quezon City—currently the hottest party strip in the metropolis.

And that's not all. "Watch out for my next project," says the indefatigable Evalle, "It's going to be called TREES!"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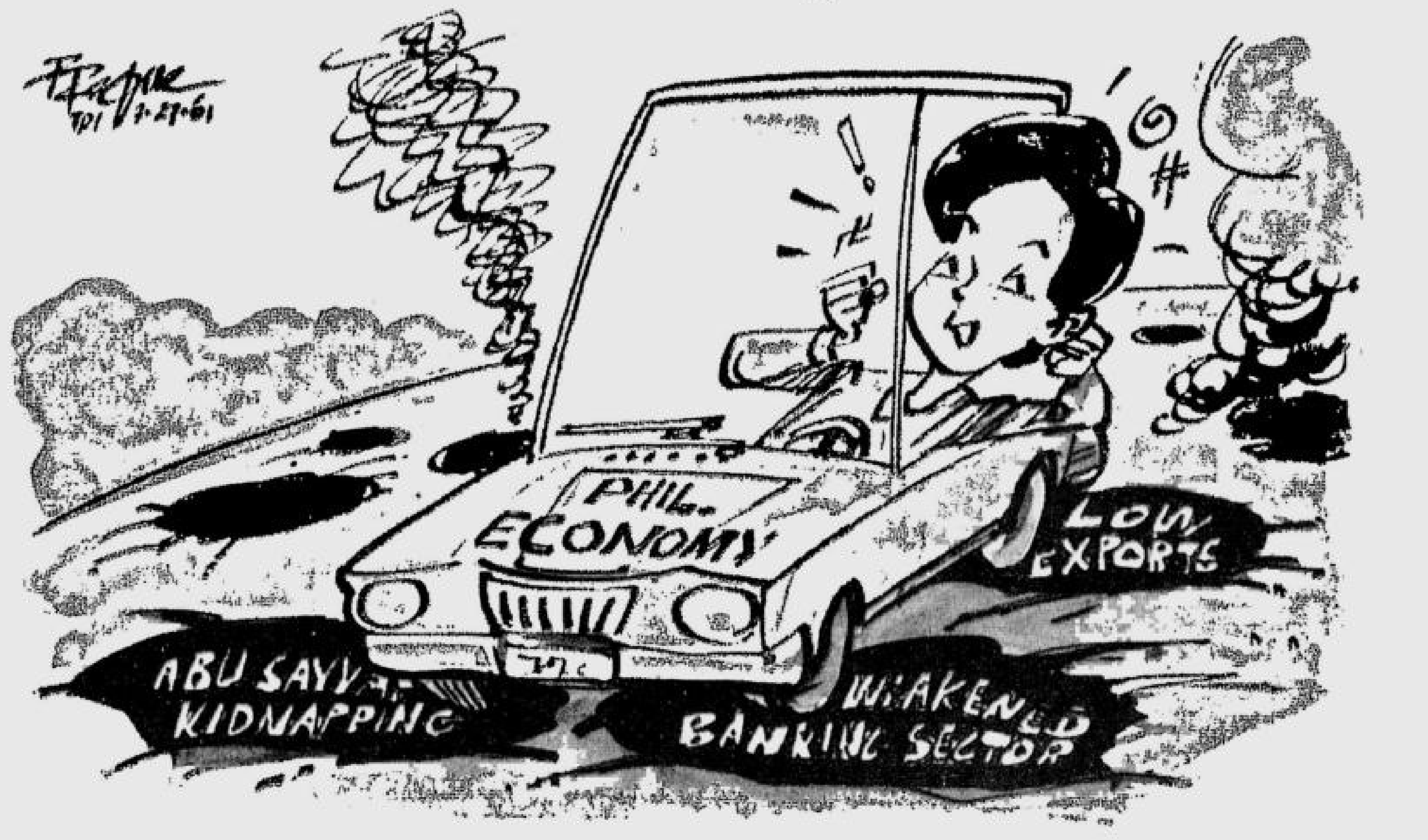
What's ailing the economy now?

By Dennis M. Arroyo



INVESTOR confidence is held hostage by the Abu Sayyaf. The negative national mood is indeed dragging down the Philippine economy. But there is more. This article will explain the other factors that are holding back the recovery.

The following comprise the added baggage: the slowdown in the United States and Japan, the resulting slump in demand for our electronics exports, inadequate revenue collection and a weakened banking sector.

Sluggish economic growth. "There's no doubt that the growth is slowing down but it's also definite that the economy is not entering a recessionary period," Economic Planning Secretary Dante Canlas has said. "We are still seeing some growth but the strength may come either in the fourth quarter (of 2001) or in the first quarter of 2002."

Canlas predicts growth of the gross domestic product at 3.3 percent to 3.8 percent for the year. The International Monetary Fund offers a lower projection of 3 percent. The figure of the Asian Development Bank is even lower, at 2.6 percent.

Many a worker has felt the chill on growth. From January to May 2001, more than 500 small firms have shed 22,000 jobs. "These were mainly manufacturing companies with employment of less than 100, followed by retail trade, wholesale industries including the restaurant industry and service industries," said Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas.

Dampened export demand. Economies are slowing down in the United States, Japan and Europe. This is dulling their demand for our exports, particularly electronics.

Exports comprise a vital sector: they make up more than a one-third of national income. Electronics has been the nation's top export, accounting for 48.4 percent of the total during April.

Exports slid by 3 percent in February and 4 percent in March 2001. Then in April, the nation's export earnings dropped by 15.8 percent—the steepest year-on-year fall since 1975. This was caused by the dampening of demand for electronics exports to the United States and Japan. The US accounted for 29.6 percent of export earnings during the month, while Japan comprised 16.7 percent.

There were falls seen as well in other large markets for Philippine exports: the Netherlands and Taiwan.

Lower exports result in less dollar inflows to the Philippines. That weakens the peso, worsening the exchange rate. As such, the rate is playing around P53 to the dollar. A falling peso further expands the foreign debt burden, because the debt is denominated in foreign currency.

Finance Secretary Isidro Camacho told AFX-Asia that foreign banks expect the peso to recover to P49 to P52 in the next six to 12 months.

Don't rule out exports—the current exchange rate makes exporting lucrative. When the American economy is in a slump, the rational consumer would seek cheaper goods. These can be supplied by the Philippines. The weak peso means that Philippine exports come out cheaper in dollar terms. So look at exports from the view of the cost-cutting importer.

Huge budget deficit. Another major challenge is the budget deficit. Recall how events played out last year. Despite the political turmoil during the end game of the Estrada administration, real GDP growth managed to hobble on at 3.9 percent in 2000.

The glaring downside was that the fiscal deficit shot up to more than double the official target for the year. In 1999 the national fiscal deficit was P112 billion, equal to 3.7 percent of GNP. It swelled further to P136 billion in 2000, or 4.1 percent of GDP. Government had to borrow more from the public.

The official deficit target for 2001 is P145 billion. At the heart of the problem is rampant tax evasion. The public should support the government in cleaning up the tax collection service.

The bigger the deficit, the more government must turn to borrowing. The state usually borrows from the public by selling Treasury bills. This would raise interest rates of the T-bills, pushing up general interest rates in the entire banking sector. Higher interest would depress investments further.

That is why the government is now shifting to borrowing from abroad. It is selling $500 million in global bonds. "We have approved in principle their (government's) intent to borrow," Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura told reporters. "I am told it's very good and very encouraging because in the medium- and long-term, there's confidence in the Philippines."

Weakened banking sector. Another problem is the weakened state of Philippine banks, even as most banks have sufficient capital. The non-performing asset ratio rose to 25 percent by March. The aggregate capital adequacy ratio slid to below 16 percent in January.

These are the results of the political conflict that began in October 2000 and culminated in People Power II.

The Philippines is generally weak in formal savings mobilization. "The country has one of the lowest degrees of financial intermediation in Asia," says a report by the Asian Development Bank. Important sectors do not get enough credit.

Fortunately, the General Banking Law of 2000, which arose in response to the Asian crisis, would likely improve matters. The new law would sharpen competition by liberalizing the entry of foreign banks. They can now own up to 40 percent of voting stock. Under some conditions, a foreign bank can even own up to 100 percent of a local bank.

The Bangko Sentral steps on the brakes though: banks that are majority owned by local will hold 70 percent of the resources in the entire banking system.

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LIFESTYLE

CHELO BANAL-FORMOSO, Editor
LITO B. ZULUETA, Subsection Editor

Orderly transition at the CCP

THE TRANSITION at the Cultural Center of the Philippines is complete. The board led by chair Gloria Angara and president Armita Rufino paved last week the orderly turnover of power to the new board led by Baltazar Endriga and Nes Jardin. Now the arts and culture community can focus on cultural promotion and engendering, presuming, of course, no one botches the act at the other principal arts and culture agency, the National Commission on Culture and the Arts, which is experiencing tectonic power shifts of its own.

Although it came to office in a blaze of controversy, the Angara-Rufino board should take comfort in the fact that it left in a quiet, dignified manner, confident of its legacy. The board members tendered their resignations immediately after the Edsa II revolution last January. Angara later wrote Malacañang to ask for the reinstatement of Rufino, architect Lor Calma, pianist Ingrid Santamaria and musician Alfonso Bolipata, arguing they did praiseworthy work. But to no avail. If Vicky Garchitorena, head of the Presidential Management Staff, were to be believed, "the President wanted to form an entirely new board."

Of course, the new board is not exactly new. It is mainly composed of the old board before Angara and Rufino came in. "We are astonished that the Endriga-led trustees are now appointed back to manage the Cultural Center," said Angara.

ORDERLY/ p.D2

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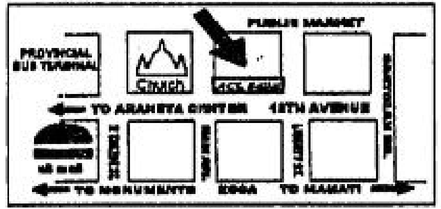

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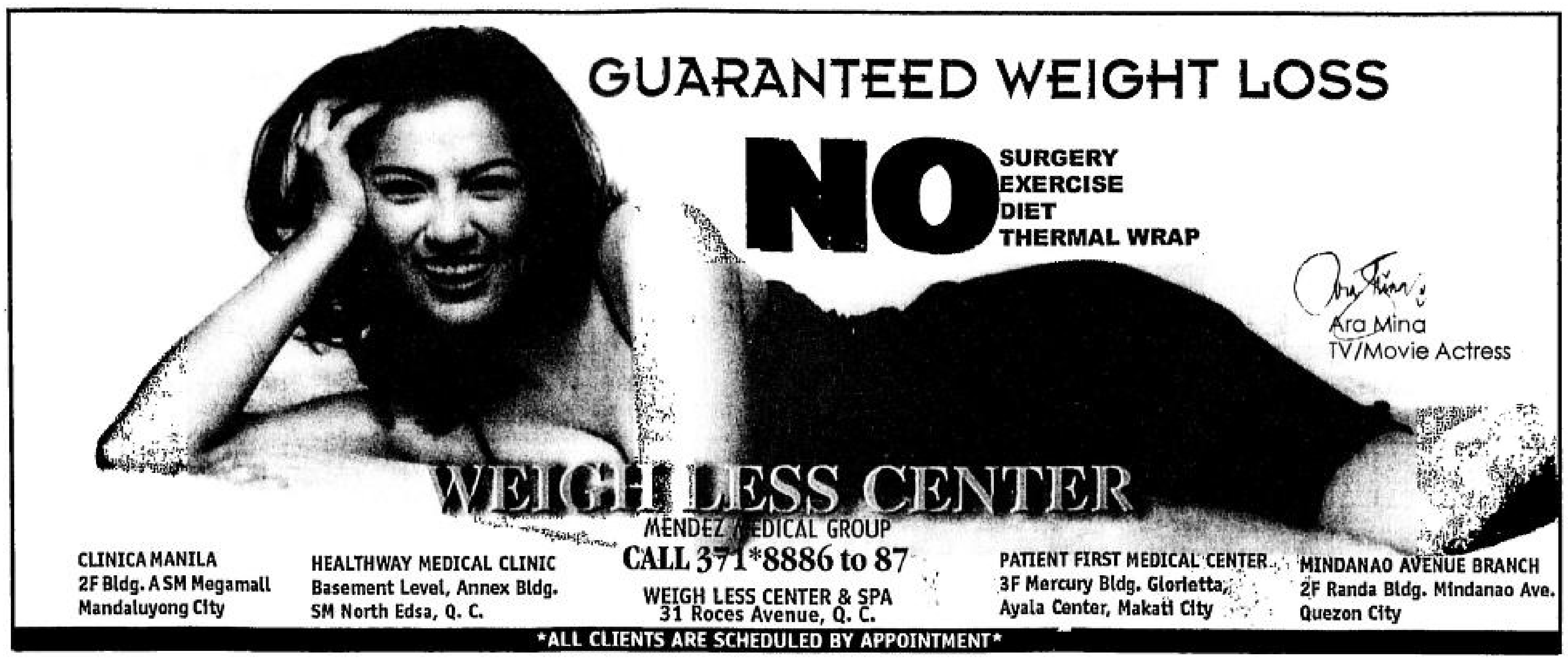

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FORMER CCP chair Gloria Angara: Secure in her legacy.

Orderly . . .

(From page D1)

Angara couldn't resist noting that the old board had returned to power through presidential sponsorship. In fact, she had clashed with the Endriga board in 1999 when, against her appointment by then President Joseph Estrada, she and her board had to undergo a process of corporate insertion into the old board because that was supposedly mandated by the CCP charter. When she and her board asserted their authority, the Endriga board took the issue to the courts. The Supreme Court still has to rule on the matter. In the meantime, Endriga and his board have accepted their appointments by the new Malacañang occupant.

Reacting to the appointments, Angara said she "recognized and respected the constitutional mandate of the right and prerogative of the President to appoint her nominees to the CCP." She explained the CCP is a government-owned corporation and the Constitution mandates that "the President shall have control of all executive departments, bureaus and offices."

ORDERLY/ p.D3

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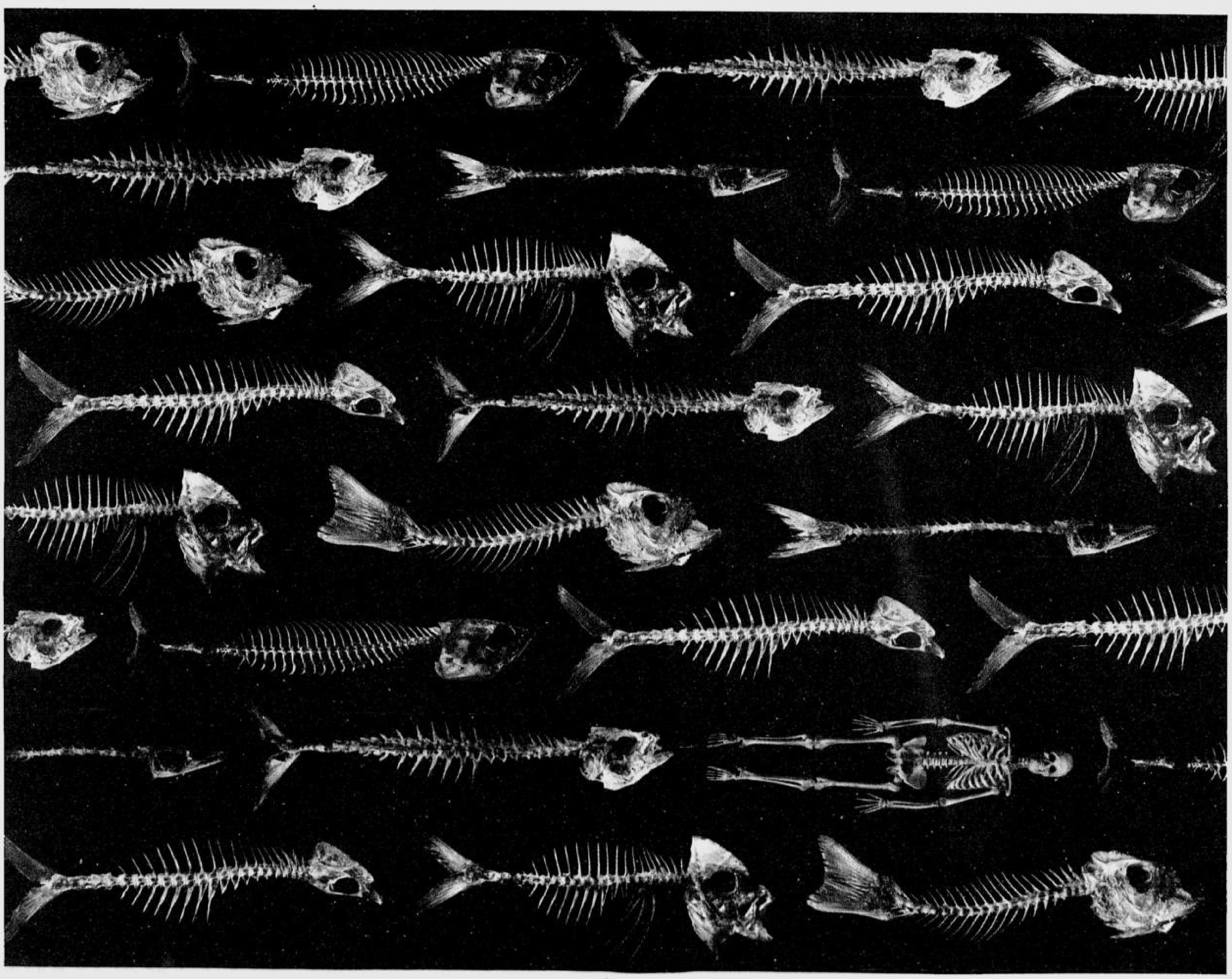

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Orderly transition at the CCP

(From page D2)

Financial stability

Asked to cite the achievements of Angara board, Armita Rufino readily referred to the financial stability that the CCP now enjoys. "When we came in 1999, we said that the priority was to put order to the finances of the CCP," she said. "We are happy to announce that the CCP is finally in the black, with cash in the bank of P193 million, as compared to P78 million in 1999."

Moreover, the board had wiped out its CCP's bond obligations of P196 million resulting from the CCP bonds issued in the late '70s to finance the Quiapo mosque and Malacañang renovations.

According to Rufino, the board was able to improve the CCP's finances by determined work to collect the CCP's share of the 5 percent amusement tax and 50 percent tobacco tax, which had been uncollected since 1986. The positive figures were also obtained by close work with the House of Representatives, which had restored the proposed CCP budget of P263 million last year.

The CCP also sought amicable settlements of its many legal disputes revolving around land and other properties in the CCP Complex, Rufino said.

Although several theater groups criticized the CCP's hosting of "Miss Saigon" for six months, Rufino pointed to the revenues from the hit musical. She said the producers had paid most of the rental, shares from merchandise sales and other fees. The remaining balance of P700,000 will be paid soon, Rufino added.

Closer to the people

In its two years, the Angara board was able to make the CCP closer to the people, Rufino said. Use of the different venues was "democratized" so that arts and culture companies could easily mount their productions there, including the parks around the complex. A CCP Advisory Council, composed of some of the leading names in the arts, such as Lucrecia Kasilag, Andrea Veneracion and Zeneida Amador, was formed to help the CCP in its cultural promotion.

The CCP also tried to make culture and the arts permeate poor communities. Its Bukluran Sining program developed reading centers in Malate and Leveriza. It also continued with Lakbay Sining, a touring program that brought selected performances of Filipino artists and groups to the provinces.

Perhaps the former CCP board's greatest success in cultural promotion was its tie-ups with private and public institutions that enabled it to widen the exposure of Philippine performing arts. It coproduced with network giant ABS-CBN "Kulturang Handog sa Bayan," a special concert that combined 200 artists from classical and popular genres. The telecast of the show was seen by four million televiewers in the country and thousands more abroad through cable TV. It also won Special of the Year in the Asian TV Awards. The CCP also staged the hit concert, "Martin Nievera with the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra," the CD of which became a chart topper. Part of the royalties will go to the maintenance of the PPO, a resident CCP company.

ARMITA Rufino (second, from left) takes pride in the CCP having achieved stability during her two years as president. With her are Angara, Alfonso Bolipata and finance officer G. Del Rosario.

PHOTOS BY JESS YUSON

The Angara board also started plans to develop the CCP complex into an eco-cultural tourism complex. It tried to rehabilitate the abandoned Manila Film Center (Rufino had proposed to her successor, Nes Jardin, that it be transformed into an Academy of the Performing Arts). The board had also asked the architecture and design firms of Calma and Palafox to make studies for the development of the complex.

All in all, the two years of the Angara-Rufino leadership had been fruitful. It is up to the new board to build on those gains, just as the Angara-Rufino board surely had built on the gains of its predecessors. What is needed is stability and continuity.

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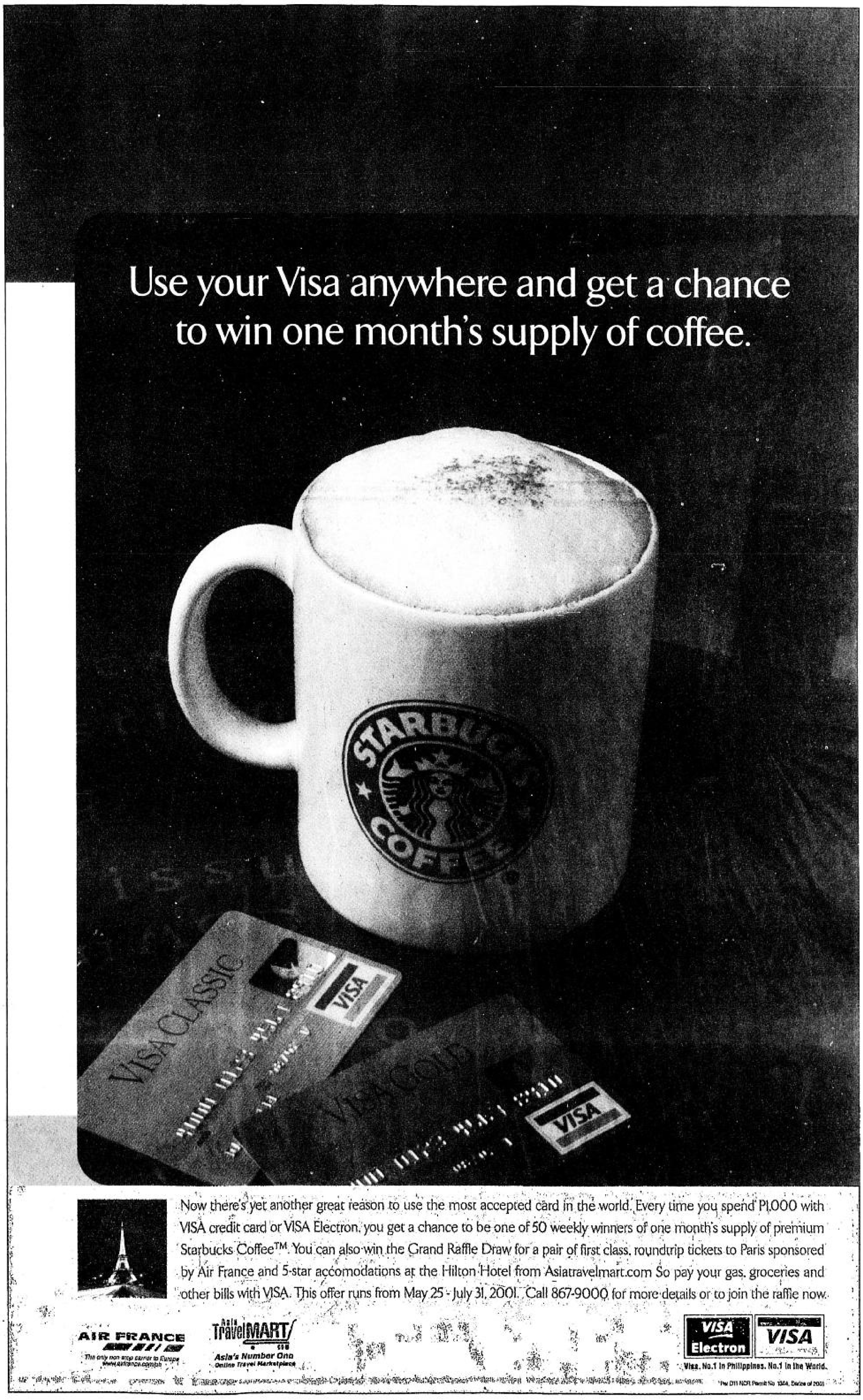

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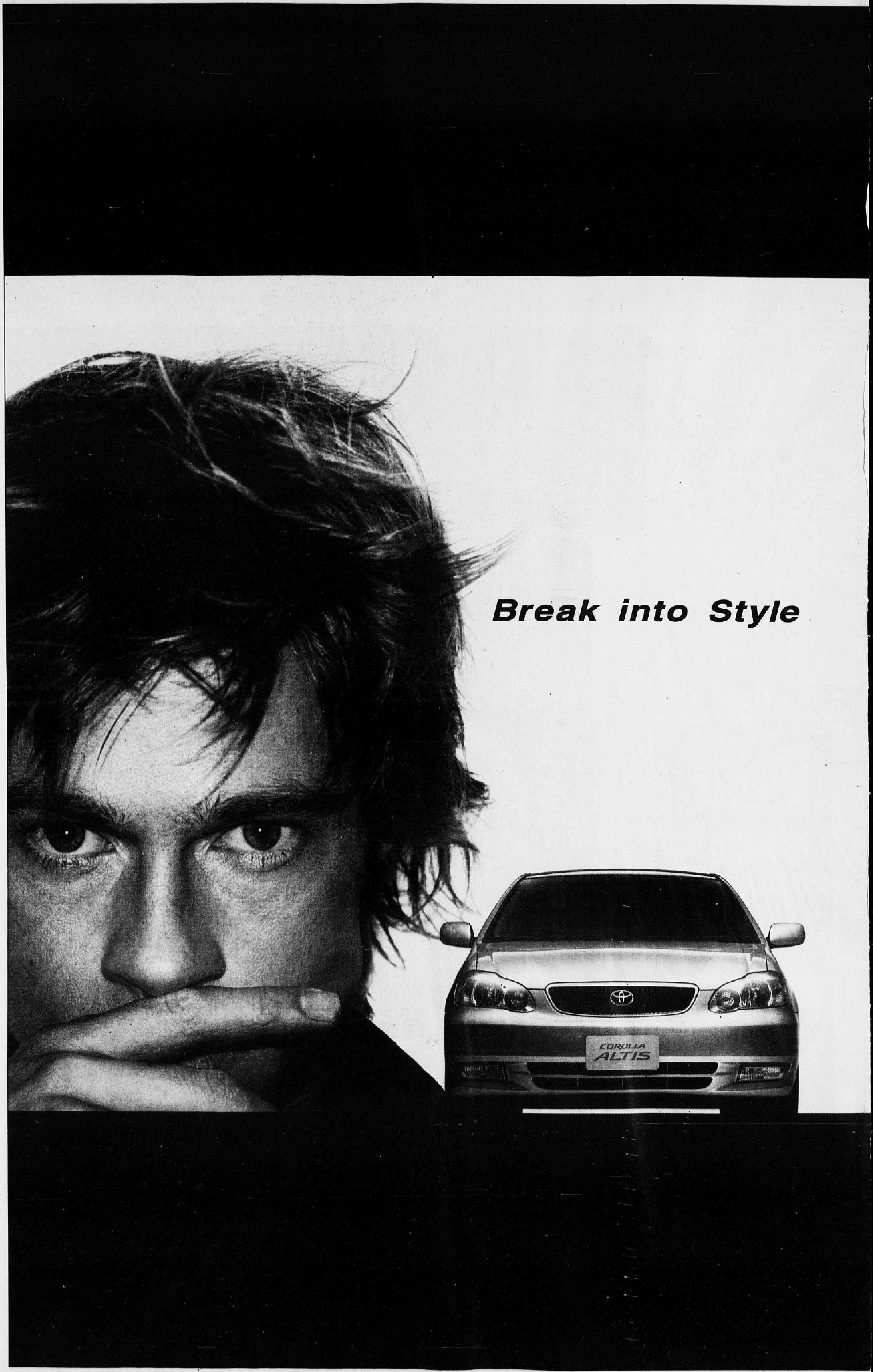
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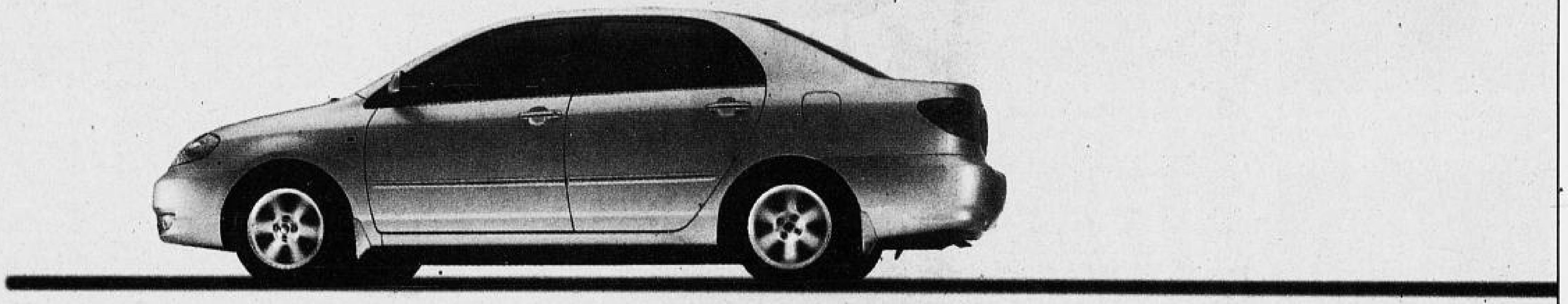

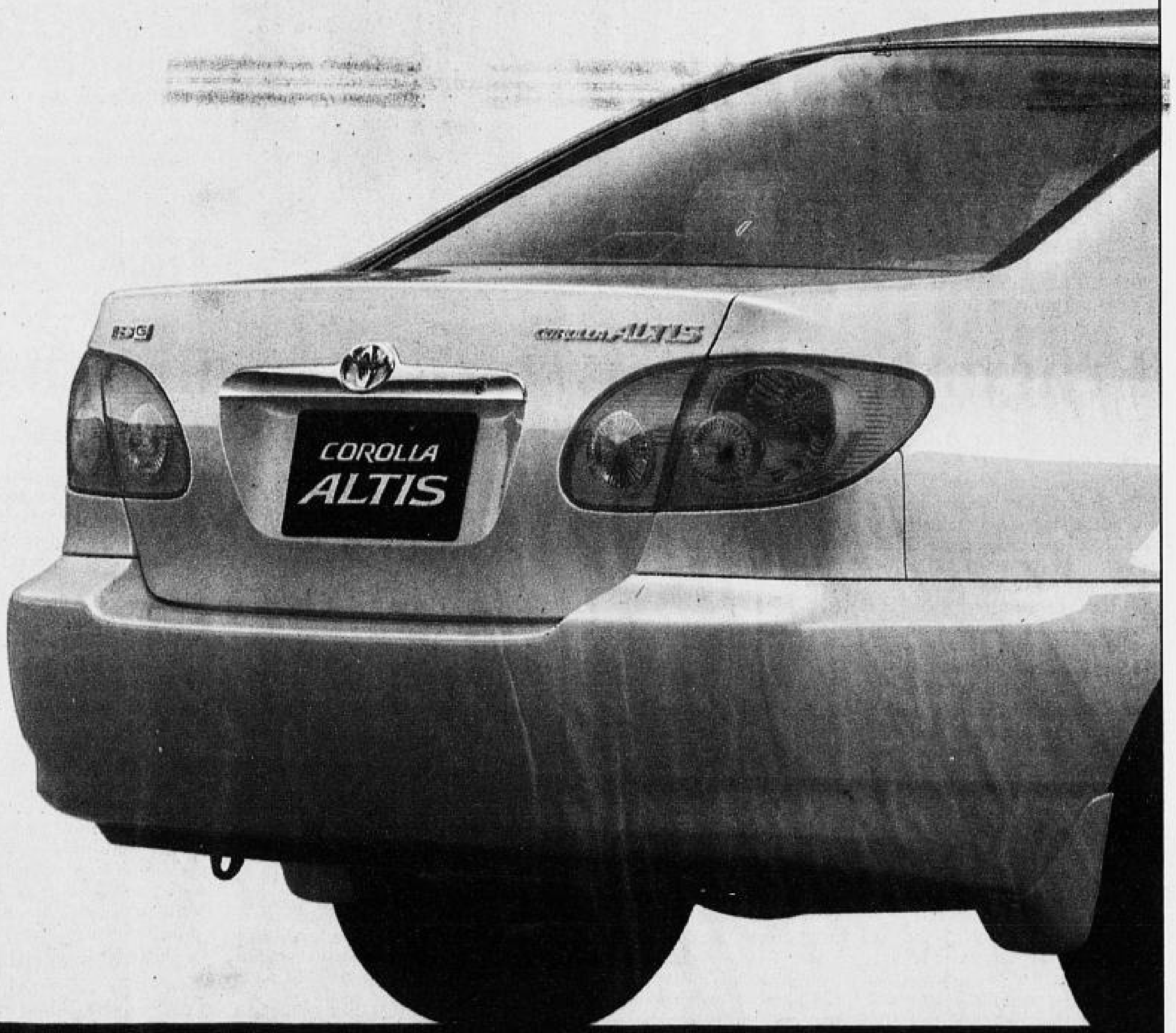

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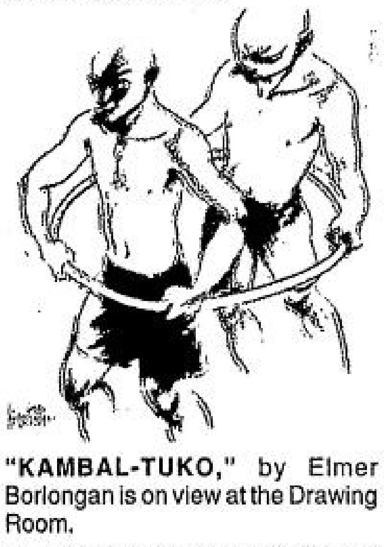
Santos at West Gallery; Jarque at Avellana Gallery; Borlongan at the Drawing Room

VISUAL ARTS

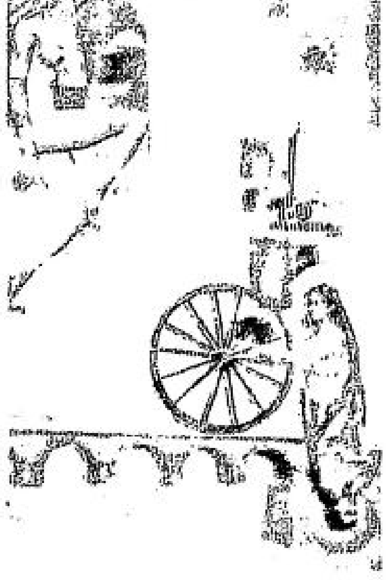
JOSE Santos III will mount his fourth one-man exhibit dubbed "Flat Land," on Aug. 2 at the West Gallery, Art Walk, 4/L, SM Megamall A, Mandaluyong City. The exhibit features works in mixed media. The exhibit will run until Aug. 14. Call 634-1284.

JARQUE AT AVELLANA GALLERY. Eugene Jarque will mount his first solo exhibit dubbed "Unparalleled" on Aug. 2, 6 p.m., at the Avellana Art Gallery, 220 Fresno Road, Pasay City. The exhibit will run until Aug. 31. Call 522-9793/94.

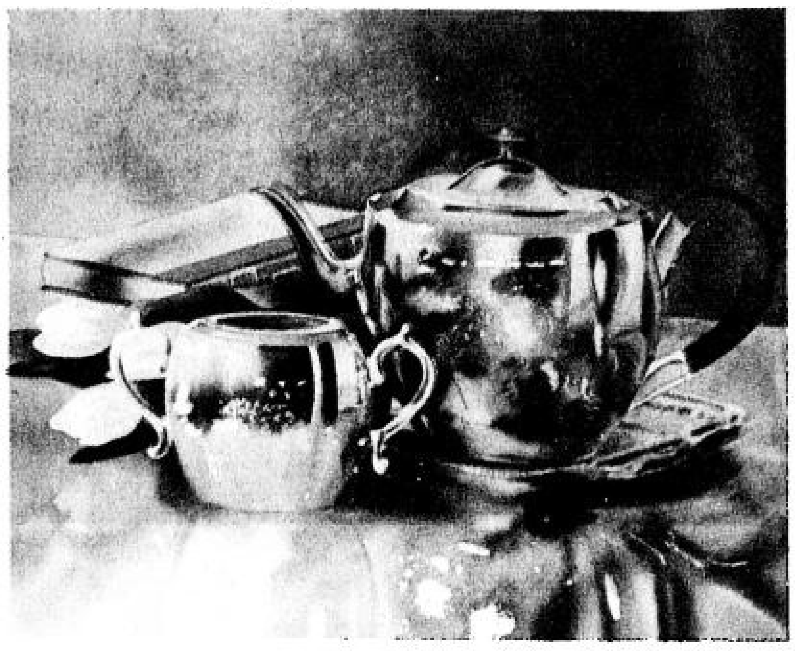
BORLONGAN AT THE DRAWING ROOM. Elmer Borlongan holds a one-man show of large works on paper until Aug. 15 at The Drawing Room, 1007 Metropolitan Avenue, Metrostar Building, Makati City. Call 897-7877 or 897-6990.



"**KAMBAL-TUKO,**" by Elmer Borlongan is on view at the Drawing Room.



"**DUALITY,**" by Jose Santos III can be seen at the West Gallery.



"**MORNING** Coffee," by Alfred Galura is one of the featured works in his second solo exhibit dubbed "Homecoming." The exhibit runs until Aug. 11, at Gallery Nine, 150 Jupiter St., Bel-Air, Makati City. Call 899-2704.

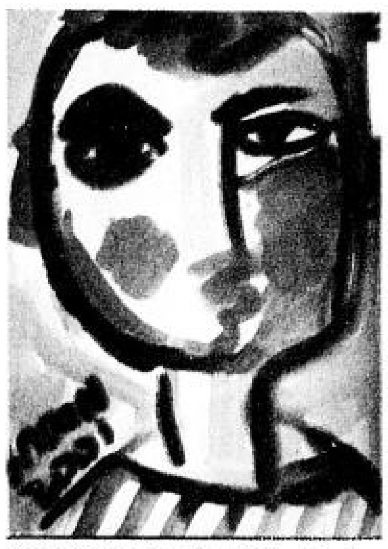
SANTIAGO AT THE ALCOVE. Photojournalist Edgardo S. Santiago will mount his one-man exhibit on Aug. 6 at the Alcove, Filipinas Heritage Library, Makati Avenue, Ayala Triangle, Makati City. The exhibit will run until Aug. 18.

PINDER SISTERS AT THE SANCTUARY GALLERY. "Liquid Dreams," an exhibition of paintings by twins Azra and Samantha Pinder opens at The Sanctuary Gallery at Maryknoll, Campo Sioco, Baguio City on Aug. 4 at 4 p.m. The show will run until Sept. 20. Call 442-4602/4926.

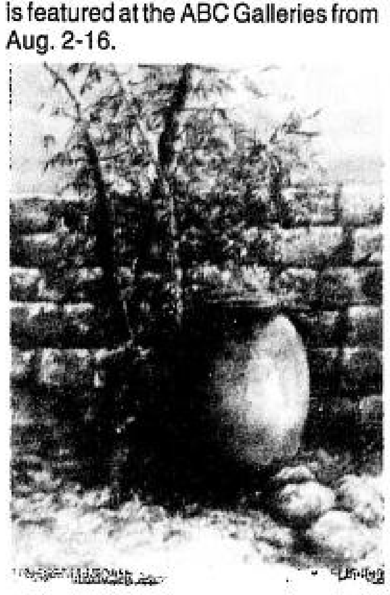
CARTOON EXHIBIT. The Samahang Kartunista ng Pilipinas (SKP) and the Cultural Affairs Committee of La Salle Greenhills (LSGH) will hold "Kartunista ng Kulturang Bayan," a Philippine cartoon exhibit at the Cebrero Hall of LSGH from Aug. 2-17, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. SKP members will feature works on their views about Philippine culture and the arts. Call 727-3760.

HEIDER AT THE DRAWING ROOM. Caroline Heider mounts her second one-woman show at The Drawing Room, 1007 Metropolitan Avenue, Metrostar Building, Makati City. The exhibit shows surrealistic drawings (some doodle-like pieces) and intimate paperworks. The exhibit runs until Aug. 15. Call 897-7877 or 897-6990

'PULSO' AT THE PHC. The Art Gallery of the Philippine Heart Center and Galleria Ilustracion present "Pulso: An Art Show by Various Filipino Artists." This show features the recent works of Al Bandalan and Hermes Alegre, to name a few. On view at the lobby of the Medical Arts Building of the Philippine Heart Center, East Avenue, QC. The show will run until Aug. 4. Call 284-1094.



"**MYSTICAL** Boy," by Philipp Badon is featured at the ABC Galleries from Aug. 2-16.



"**BANGA'T KAWAYAN,**" by Rodgie Gapayao is shown at Antonelli's Ristorante.

BADON AT ABC GALLERIES. Philipp Badon will mount his latest exhibit, "Transformative Genre," on Aug.2-16 at the ABC Galleries, 1911 M. Adriatico St., Malate. The exhibit features works in watercolor and oil pastels. Call 524-3795.

YNIGUEZ AT WEST GALLERY. Sonny Yniguez will hold his latest one-man show dubbed "Secret Birds," on Aug. 9 at the West Gallery, 3/L, Glorietta 4, Ayala Center, Makati City. The exhibit will run until Aug. 21. Call 752-7028 or 752-7029.

GAPAYAO AT ANTONELLI'S. Rodgie B. Gapayao will hold his first one-man show for the whole month of August at Antonelli's Ristorante, Yakal Street, Makati City.

GROUP EXHIBIT AT THE ART CENTER. Gallery Genesis unveils "Kulay sa Tubig." The annual invitational watercolor competition and exhibition heralds the value and significance of watercolor as a medium. The exhibit opens on Aug.10 at the SM Megamall Art Center. and will run until Aug. 22. Call 633-8137 to 38.

WRITING WORKSHOP. A workshop on fiction for beginners will be held at the Ayala Museum on Makati Avenue every Saturday of the month beginning Aug. 4. The three-hour modules contain writing exercises, which will help them develop specific skills needed in fiction writing. Call 812-1191 to 97, local 130.

SKETCHING WORKSHOP. Manny Jimenez Reniva will conduct art workshops on basic sketching and advanced painting in watercolor at the ACM Building, Rizal St., Sorsogon City on Aug. 4-30 and Sept.1-23, respectively. Call 0919-5543544.

POTTERY WORKSHOP. "Circle of Clay" is the third annual exhibit of the Pettyjohn-Mendoza Pottery Workshop. Over 50 students and alumnae will participate in this group show which will feature both functional and sculptural clay works. Majority of the pottery to be shown will be of high-fired stoneware clay and glazes made of Philippine materials. The exhibit will also feature the first results of the "Philippine Anagama Project," which was recently held at the Pettyjohn Workshop in Laguna.

Sculptor-painter Leonardo Hidalgo holds homecoming show at Asia Art Gallery

SCULPTOR-PAINTER Leonardo M. Hidalgo, former department head and professor for 24 years of the UST College of Architecture and Fine Arts, has returned from Philadelphia recently to mount the first of his two solo exhibits slated this year.

The exhibit, "Seasons," runs Aug. 10-17 at the Asia Art Gallery, 6/L Shangri-La Plaza Mall.

"Seasons" presents more than 20 works in watercolor and acrylic, portraying familiar landscapes and seascapes in clear and vibrant colors. Other works include still-lifes of flowers, scenes of folk dances as well as depictions of Hidalgo's only granddaughter, 3-year-old Isabella in playful mood.

Hidalgo is the man behind the acclaimed "Dominican Saints and Martyrs," the historico-religious sculptures in front of the Central Library building facing the Dapitan Street gate of the University of Santo Tomas, Asia's oldest university. The sculptures depict what Dominicans and UST alumni call as "the glory of UST"—the Dominican martyrs who trained or taught at UST before dying for the faith in hostile Asian lands, including the first Filipino saint, Lorenzo Ruiz, a member of a Dominican Marian confraternity.

Hidalgo and his wife Alba left the country in 1992 when their only child, Odranoele, only 14 at that time, earned a scholarship to the School of Pennsylvania Ballet in Philadelphia. While Odranoele moved on to dance with the Philadelphia Russian Ballet Theater, her mother pursued her career as a social worker and psychotherapist.

"*Nung nasa* America *ako*, miss *na* miss *ko talaga ang Pilipinas. Madalas naiimbitahan ako sa mga* group shows at *doon ko nailalabas 'yung mga trabaho ko tungkol sa Pilipinas.* I paint country scenes, still lifes, anything that would remind people that I am a Filipino and I come from the Philippines," Hidalgo beams. "I also paint scenes reminiscent of my student days with Leon Pacunayen, Florencio Concepcion and Angelito David in Italy. That was more than 40 years ago!"

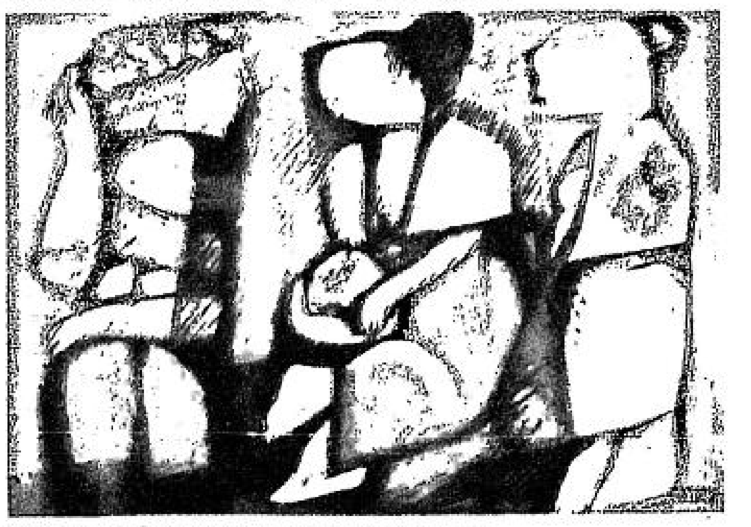
On Aug. 10, Hidalgo's guests of honor are Italian Ambassador Umberto Colesanti, Mayor Mary Jane Campos-Ortega of San Fernando, La Union and Dr. Alejandro R. Roces, known art patron and chair of Movie and Television Review and Classification Board.

Malang at Luz Gallery

HE may be over 70, but he is far from throwing away his brushes. He still spends a great part of his day discovering new ways of presenting subjects that are very dear to him. "Malang's "Sketchbook" features some 50 small works in gouache, on view from Aug. 4-23, at the Luz Gallery (Locsin Building corner Makati and Ayala Avenues, Makati; 893-4376 or 815-6906).

"Malang's Sketchbook" hints at the artist's attempts to present his images anew, composing them tightly while generously playing around with colors. The collection presents a mix of works, some bathed in color, others in black and white. The mood is very light; the swooshing lines show the artist is having fun with his creations.

Malang loves and lives for the serious challenge of exploring different approaches. Art is a continuing process, he says, learning doesn't stop. Even when he's traveling, his main concerns revolve around finding new art materials and inspirations for future pieces.



"**THREE WOMEN,**" gouache, 8 1/2" x 12"

Fragments of a mysterious civilization

BY CONSTANTINO C. TEJERO

EVEN before Pablo Neruda sang of "The Heights of Macchu Picchu," the world had long suspected there once was such a civilization that existed in what came to be known as the New World. In fact, it was said to have flourished thousands of years ago, when some Europeans were still walking on all fours.

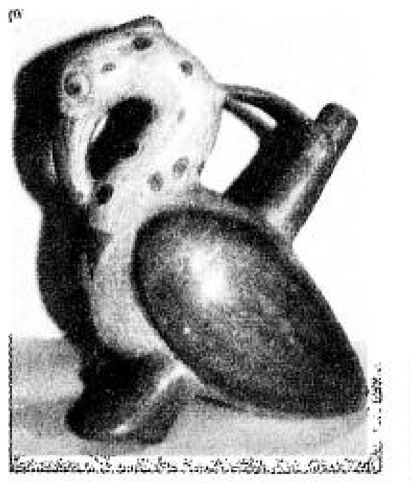
Says a museum brochure: "Before Columbus' arrival, great Indian civilizations thrived in Central and South America, with the richest and most powerful centered in what are now the modern nations of Peru, Mexico and Guatemala."

That's from the exhibition note of "Discovering the Mystery of Ancient Peru," an exhibit of pre-Inca artifacts presented by the Metropolitan Museum of Manila in cooperation with the Embassy of Peru.

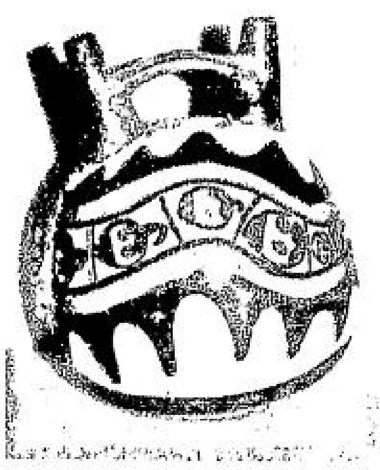
Held July 6-21 at the Tall Galleries, the exhibit featured 45 artifacts dated before the 16th century. The wares were arranged on black pedestals and encased in glass, and categorized according to the various indigenous cultures that flourished in Peru before the Inca civilization: Chavín (800 BC-200 BC), Nazca (250 BC-750 AD), Moche (3rd century BC-7th century AD), Chimu (1000-1470).

We find one crucial thing problematic, though. For instance, sources vary as to the dating of the Chavín culture. One says it flourished between 1600 BC and 800 BC, another says it's 800 BC-200 BC, and yet a third claims it's 1st century AD-6th century AD.

If we believe the first claim, why, that's more than a millennium before the Golden Age of Greece. And if we believe the third, that can hardly be, because this ancient culture, which flourished in a small valley on the eastern slope of the Andes, was supposed to be the earliest Peruvian civilization. So we'd rather take the second. As Aristotle said, the middle way is the best way.



AN ORNITHOLOGY-INSPIRED Moche bottle with bridged handle



NAZCA bottle with bridged handle and two spikes, with paintings of snakes

Pictorial quality

The ceramics and sculptural pieces amazed not so much for their age as for the outstanding craftsmanship of the pre-Inca artisans. This can be readily seen in the detailing and coloration of some of the pieces, as well as in their imaginative portrayal of creatures both mythical and real, and their naturalistic depiction of daily activities such as hunting, fishing, combat, religious ceremonies.

The principal motif of the Chavín style is the jaguar god, symbolizing supernatural strength and power. Objects are decorated with images of snakes, crocodiles, plants, or humans with animal attributes such as bird feet, reptilian eyes or feline fangs.

Among the Chavín pieces in the exhibit were a grotesque face of a deity with large eyes, a bottle sculpted like a shell and etched with various designs, and another bottle sculpted like a howling monkey. The bottles referred here were made of stone or ceramic, and their fine finish belied their ancient provenance.

The Nazca style is even finer and more intricate in detailing. The pottery is often polychrome with a brilliant finish; the vessels normally globular and double-necked with bridged handles; the ceramics overly decorated and painted with as much as 11 different colors (but usually white, red, black, orange, gray and purple).

The pictorial quality of the style makes it easily identifiable. It is usually a white or red background on which animals and fruits are outlined in black then filled with a wide range of colors and tones.

Showcased in the exhibit were these stylized and angular Nazca designs depicting human, land and marine animals and plant forms, such as the coned bottle with a braided handle whose base was decorated with shrimp engravings. Or another shaped in the figure of King Huaco with a globular body flanked by two cats.

Cultural life

The Moche, which used a sophisticated molding technique, manufactured whistling bottles with stirrup spouts and handles. The culture produced naturalistic sculptured pottery, usually portraits of humans, animals, plants, buildings, deities. This ceramic art—fine pottery vessels bearing portraits of all aspects of cultural life—has become "one of the most widely recognized forms of pre-Hispanic art in South America."

And it was easily the most amusing as well in the exhibit, as the pieces resembled the modern ceramic doll or figurine. There was a bottle shaped as a character playing drums, and another as a fat woman with a child. A sinister one was the figure of a kneeling prisoner tied to a post with the rope running around his neck.

The Chimu, "a highly developed urban culture that lasted until its destruction by the Incas," mass-produced its ceramics, aiming for functionality rather than art. The principal characteristics of the Chimu pottery include: a dark, glossy external surface; representations of animals, plants, humans, mythological beings; the presence of a small figure of a monkey or other animals at the base of the handle.

Though tending toward functional mass production, this typically black pottery was among the most beautiful in the exhibit. We marveled particularly at the extensive detailing, such as in a jug with a relief of birds, a small boat made of reeds, and that ubiquitous monkey holding on to the jug's neck. Or the bottle decorated with a woman surrounded by corn cobs.

Most surprising

In fact, we marveled at almost everything in that exhibit, and found connections of this pre-Inca civilization with several other ancient cultures. For instance, the double-bodied bottle with an anthromorphic figure and decorations of waves and fish reminded us of a seascape on a Japanese scroll.

The container shaped as a dog nursing four puppies was almost a miniature version of that Roman sculpture of Romulus and Remus suckling a she-wolf. The bottle shaped as a person carrying an animal could be any other Indian hunter bearing a big cat, but then the man had a mysterious archaic smile, and that easily connected to early Greek sculpture.

The most surprising of the lot were the two bottles depicting an erotic scene—miniature figures of a man taking a woman from behind. It was so realistic that, if you looked closer, you could even see the man's genitals and the woman's facial expression, you'd swear both were wincing from pleasure or pain.

Have we seen that before? Why, of course, on the façades of those ancient Hindu temples.

EMMA Navarro recently held her first one-woman show dubbed "Of Woman and Drapes," at The Big and Small Art Co. Gallery at The Enterprise Center in Makati City. Shown are (from left) Christine Bersola, Julius Babao, Emma Navarro, Cid Reyes, Ramon Orlina and Mr. Navarro during the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

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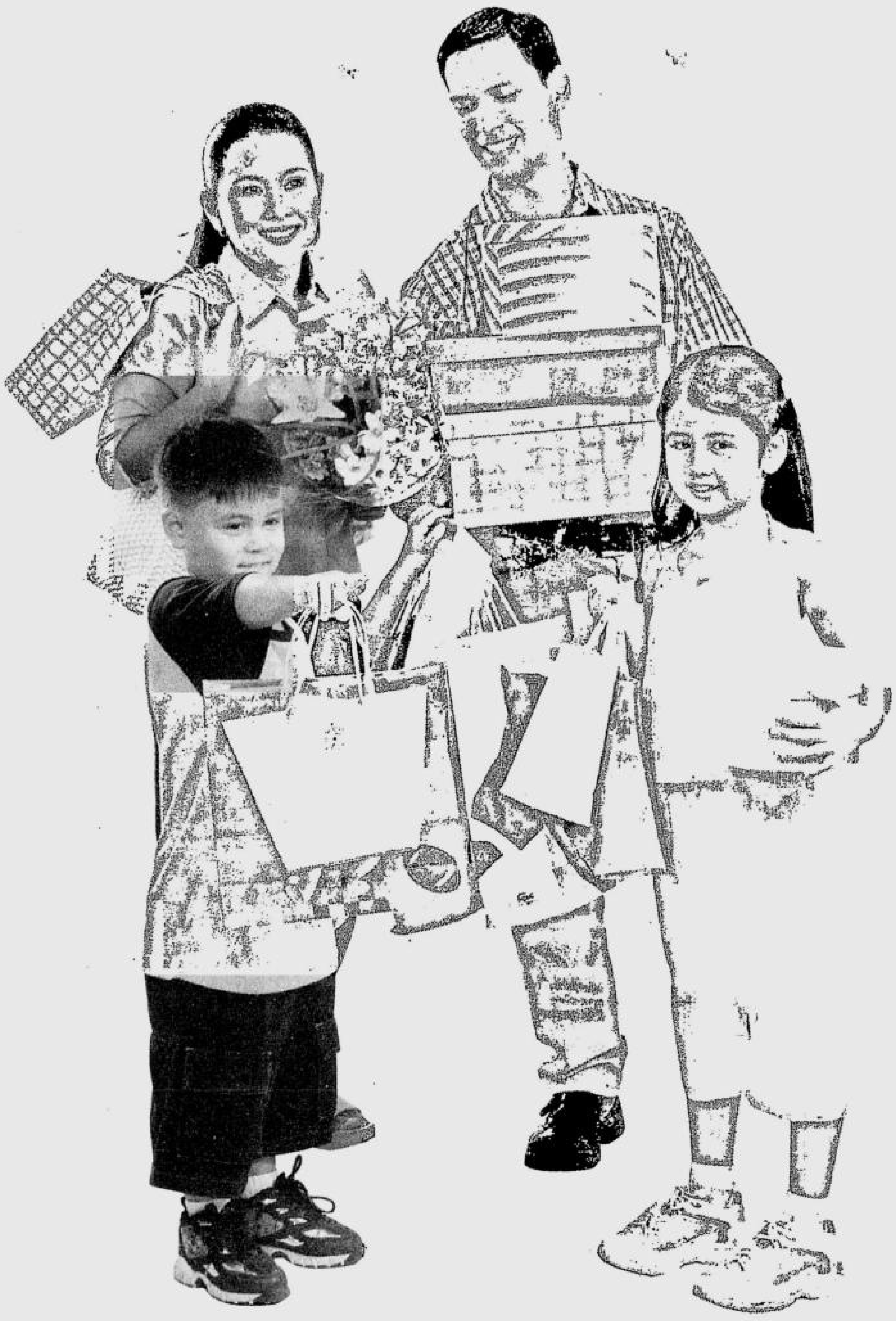

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(Story on page E4)

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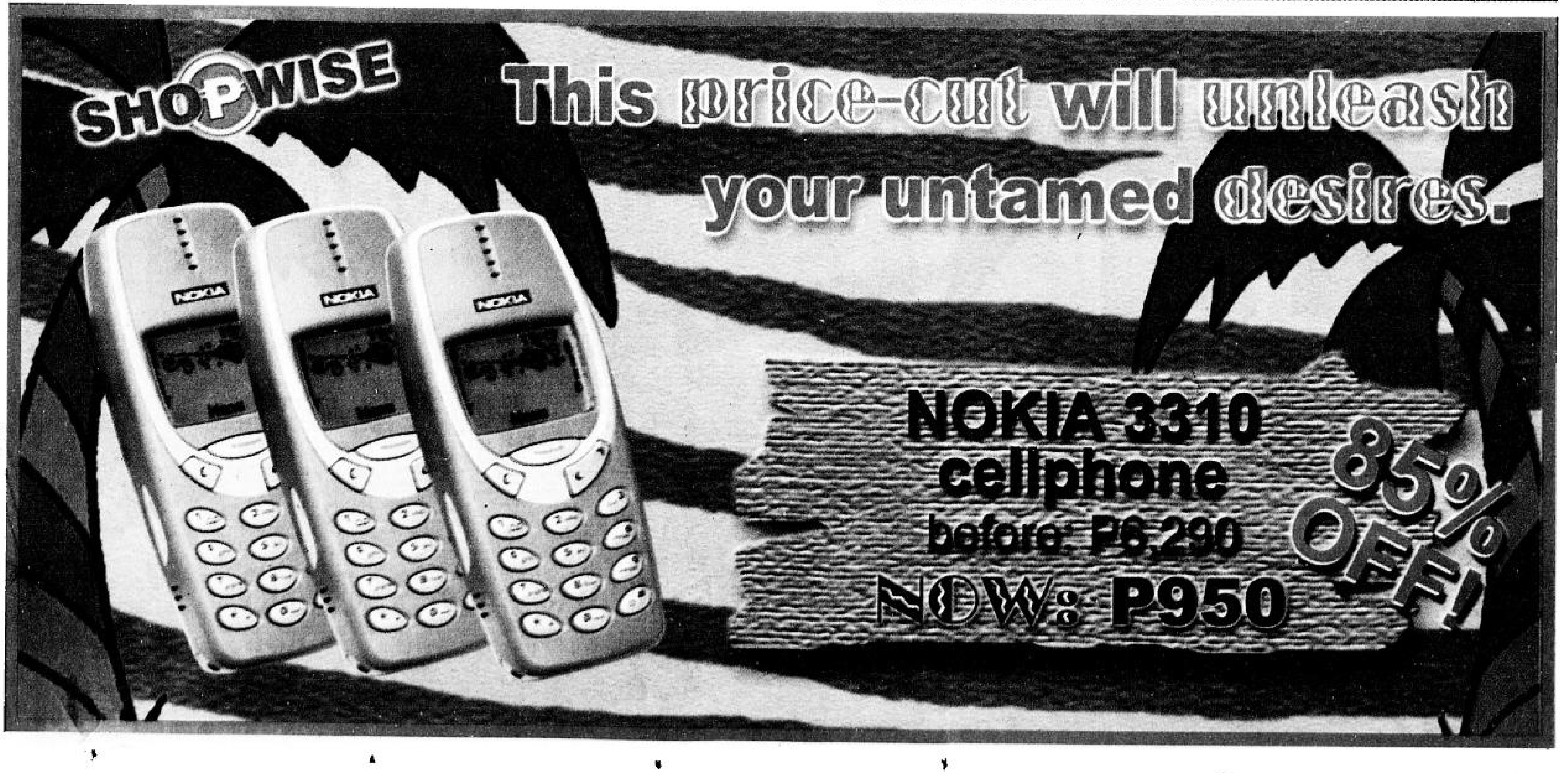


JOHNNY Rocha, Justo Ortiz and Fr. Angel Aparicio of UST

ROGER MARGALLO

UNDERSECRETARY Lauro Baha, Russian Ambassador Anatoli Khmelnitski and French Ambassador Gilles Chouraqui

SPANISH Ambassador Tomas Pantoja, Mr. and Ms Jose Miguel Menchaca

PHOTOS BY BETOY JOHNSON

Venezuela's national day celebrated at Inter-Con

DIPLOMATIC SWIRL

By Amiga

GEORGE Araneta

CARLOS Ramirez Faria

THE IRREPRESSIBLE Venezuelan Ambassador **Milena Santana-Ramirez** and Dr. **Carlos Ramirez-Faria** hosted a reception celebrating Venezuela's national day at the Skytop of the Inter-Con on July 5 with Vice President **Teofisto Guingona** delivering an eloquent response in Spanish. It's nice to know some government officials can speak languages other than their native tongue.

The steamed salmon with hollandaise was as usual superb as only the Inter-Con could do, and the champagne flowed freely despite the gloom and doom of the hostage crisis hanging over us.

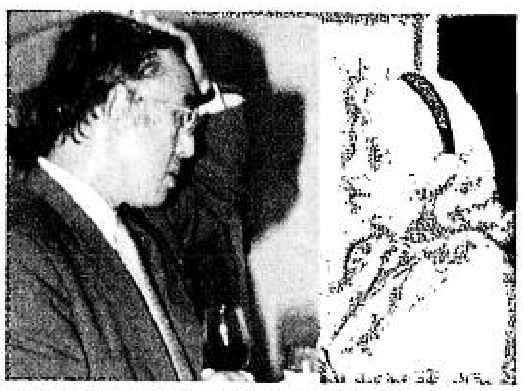
Gemma Cruz Araneta resurrected, hopefully wiser, with handsome son, **Leon**, and there was Mme. **Kessara Arnold** who had such a splendid sense of fashion, on her way to another gala with husband, Netherlands Ambassador **Theo Arnold**.

Seen in the crowd were **Jorge** and **Stella Araneta**, **Fortune Ledesma**, **Mary** and **Marylou Prieto**, **Paz Yuchengco**, the indomitable **Vivienne Y**, former Ambassador **Isabel Wilson**, who insisted she was the reincarnation of Josephine Bracken (If true, the revolution would have been won and Rizal would have been the first president of the republic).

Among the diplomatic corps were Papal Nuncio Msgr. **Antonio Franco**, Belgian Ambassador **Roland Van Remoortele**, European Union Ambassador **Yves Gazzo**, Swedish Ambassador and Mme. **Ulf Hakansson**, Australian Ambassador and Ms **John Buckley**, Philippine Ambassador to Malta **Enrique** and **Letty Syquia**, and many more.

OSCAR Zalameda, Paz Yuchengco and Washington Sycip

FORMER President Fidel Ramos and Presidential Spokesman Bobby Tiglao



JAPANESE Ambassador and Mme. Yoshihisa Ara

ROGER Davis and Susan Brumann

VICE President/DFA Secretary Guingona, Ambassador Milena Santana-Ramirez and Msgr. Antonio Franco

* * *

On Bastille Day, which came right on the heels of "French Spring in Manila," French Ambassador **Gilles Chouraqui** put out quite a spread, with former President **Fidel V. Ramos** gracing the occasion. Ramos talked animatedly with Presidential Spokesman Secretary **Bobby Tiglao** (why is this man laughing?) as well as his sister, **Letty Shahani**, who was with good friend **Virgie Moreno**. And who can forget **Baby Arenas** of the flowing tresses?

There were artists like **Allan** and **Ivi Cosio**, **Nestor Torre**, **Behn Cervantes** and **Laurice Guillen**, Dr. **Jose Maceda** and **Oscar Zalameda** who made a rare appearance. Among the diplomats spotted were Peruvian Ambassador **Julio Cardenas**, Japanese Ambassador and Mme. **Yoshihisa Ara**, Italian Ambassador and Mme. **Umberto Colesanti**, Russian Ambassador and Mme. **Anatoli Khmelnitski** and Saudi Arabian Ambassador **Salem Al-Ghandi**. We will certainly miss Ambassador Chouraqui's receptions and dinners with their blend of the diplomatic, the cultural and the business sectors.

* * *

Instituto Cervantes director **Javier Galvan** hosted a *paella* dinner at Casino Español with Spanish Ambassador **Tomas Pantoja** as guest of honor.Honored were academes and students as well as supporters of the Instituto such as Dr. **Benito Legarda**, **Marcos Roces**, Fr. **Gabriel Casal**, **Justo Ortiz** and **Ramon Rodriguez.**

INSTITUTO Director Javier Galvan

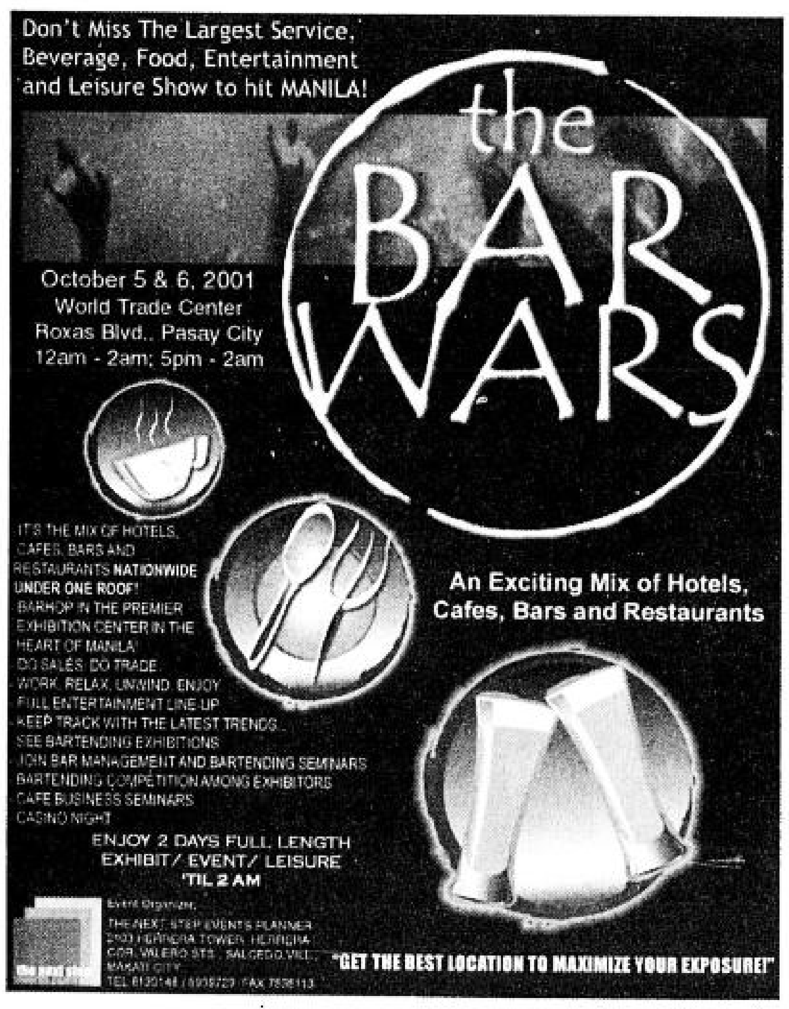
ROGER MARGALLO

PERUVIAN Ambassador Julio Cardenas

ITALIAN Ambassador Umberto Colesanti and Ambassador Enrique Syquia

MAURI Thanker Geysta, Gemma Araneta, Mme. Parvati Gupta, Estella Marque Araneta and Leon Araneta

MARYLOU Prieto Lovina



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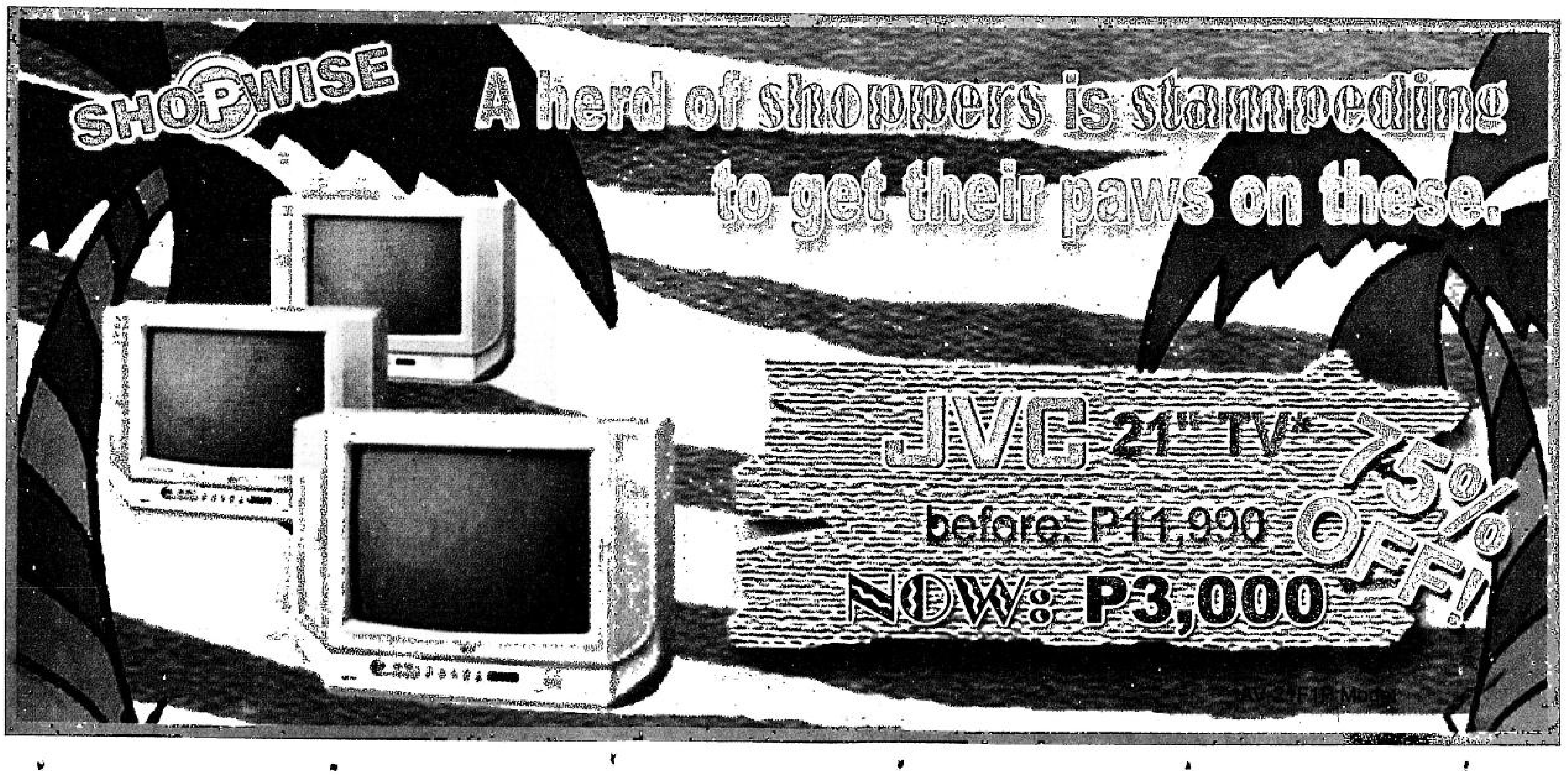

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KLAUDIA Koronel and Ina Raymundo in "Tuhog"

Jeff Jeturian's 'Tuhog' is competition entry in Venice filmfest

AFTER MANUEL Conde's "Genghis Khan" in 1950, a Filipino film makes it again to the prestigious Venice Film Festival, the world's oldest international film festival.

"Tuhog," directed by Jeffrey Jeturian, written by Armando Lao and produced by Lily Y. Monteverde of Regal Films Inc. bested hundreds of entries around the world to land as one of the 20 finalists for the festival's Cinema of the Present Competition. For its international release, "Tuhog," which shows how cinema trivializes the real-life tragedy of a mother and her daughter who have been raped by the former's father, will carry the title "Larger than Life."

JEFFREY Jeturian

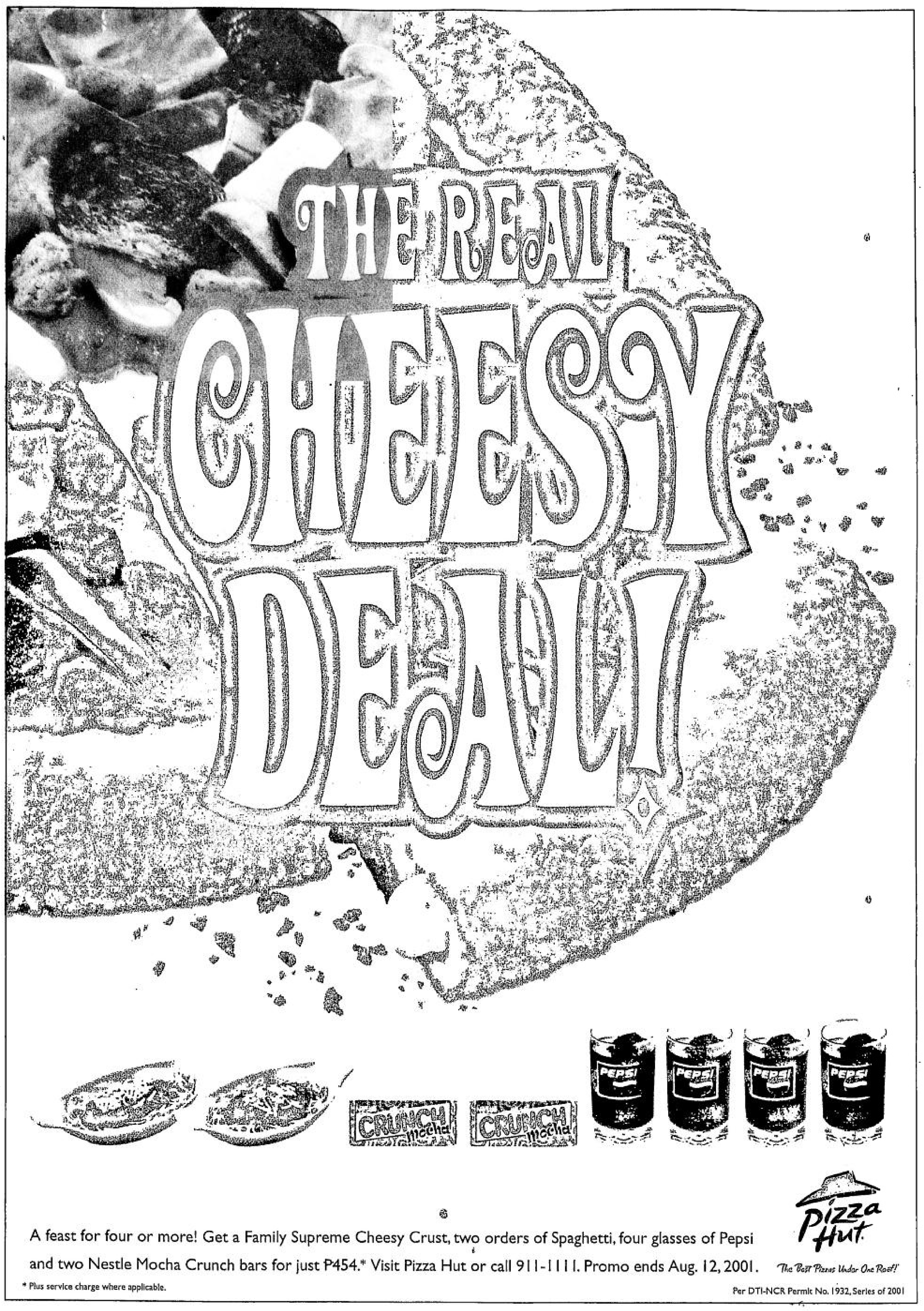
The Cinema of the Present is a competitive section for feature films that are representative of contemporary cinema in its experimental, cutting-edge or path-breaking trends and forms. The Jury will be made up of five or seven figures from the world of cinema, each representing a film magazine from a different country. The entries will be eligible for the Lion of the Year prize, worth $100,000, which will be divided equally between director and producer. The Jury will also award two special prizes.

Early this year, "Tuhog" garnered four awards, including Best Picture, in the Urian Awards given by the respected film critics group, the Manunuri ng Pelikulang Pilipino.

When the film festival organizers announced the competition entries, Jeturian was taping episodes for his television shows "Biglang Sibol, Bayang Impasibol" and "Pira-pirasong Pangarap." According to the Armando Lao, who won the Urian Best Screenplay award, Jeturian "is very happy to land in the competitive section of the international film festival."

The Venice Film Festival, officially known as The 58th Mostra Internazionale D'arte Cinematografica, is organized by La Biennale di Venezia. The festival will be held on the Venice Lido from Aug. 29 to Sept. 8. An integral part of the Festival will be the screenings held in Venice itself and on the mainland, organized in collaboration with Venice City Council under the title Esterno Notte.

According to festival director Alberto Barbera, the festvial aims "to encourage awareness of all the various aspects of cinema as art and entertainment, thus stimulating creative activity through a process of comparison and study."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Enhancing spirituality through dance

The wise traveler walks alone,
For the path to the top of the mountain is narrow.
There is room only for two,
And the other is Truth...
—**Barbara Ramsay**

By Cora Llamas

THE POETRY of Australian poet Barbara Ramsay is almost like a siren beckoning the listener to be one with its music. Or enter and be part of its world. In this journey, though, the truth the journeyman confronts is not the author's message, but the reality that lies within his own soul.

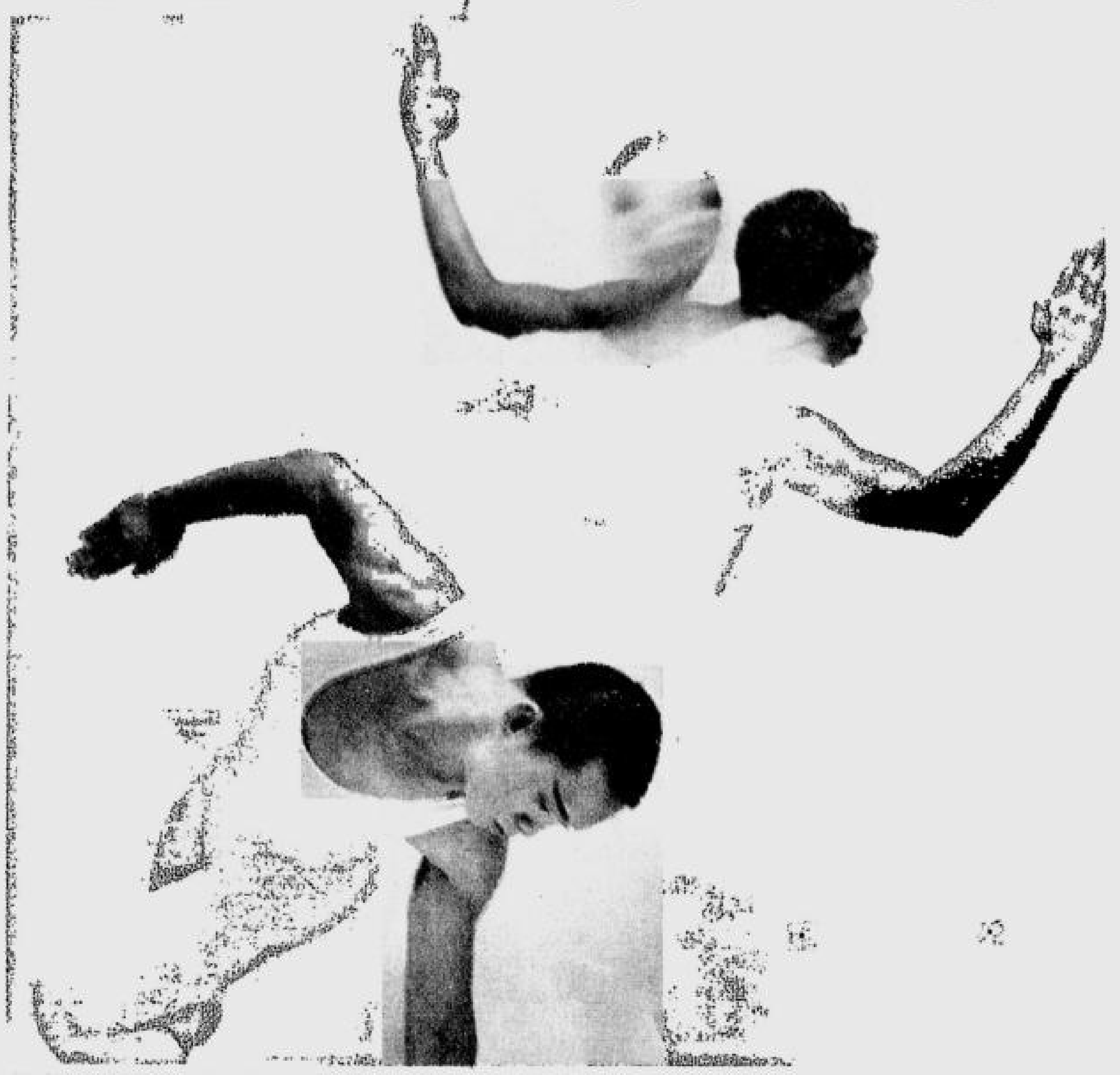
Solitude, that one moment of just being oneself, with no deadlines or sales quotas to run after, or no jarring electronic distraction to disturb its serenity, is almost priceless in its rarity. Ramsay's short but stirring poem, "God: The Companion," gently reminds us to quiet down, enjoy the flowers, look for God or for a deeper spirituality, and just bask in it.

The upcoming multimedia dance-concert, "The Traveler," which uses Ramsay's poems as a springboard, hopes to send that same message across in an innovative fusion of modern dance, poetry recital, music, video and theater. In the same way that the Ramsay poems ask the reader to leave the trappings of normal life, "The Traveler" bends the conventions of the artistic disciplines to create something new. The traditional fourth wall of the performance arts is literally taken away, as the audience is beckoned to participate in the concert, and not just watch it.

For starters, the venue for the show is a corridor (not an auditorium), the spacious, stretched-out horizontal marble space that connects Towers 1 and 2 at the RCBC Plaza Galleria. Passersby walking on De la Costa Avenue and nearby Buendia can easily see the performance.

Flexible, free numbers

The performers, led by dance artist Marge Enriquez, will traverse this long impromptu stage, essaying in dance the poetry. Music is composed by no less than National Artist Lucresia Kasilag. Unencumbered by the platform and enclosed walls of the traditional stage, the dance numbers become more flexible and free.


SPIRIT AMONG THE HUMANS. Marge Enriquez (center) with dancer-choreographer Dwight Rodrigazo and Rency de los Santos.
PHOTO: NEAL OSHIMA

Four large screens positioned strategically on different parts of the building click on cue, juxtaposing the various sequences with mesmerizing film images about life. According to video director Ed Lejano, the overall effect of the MTVs is a cross between the dazzling, unpredictable intensity of film maverick Quentin Tarantino and the undisturbed peace of Zen.

Strange mixture, admittedly. But isn't the journey to spirituality often like that?

This concert is a journey, and the nine dance sequences climax with the Traveler reaching her destination. And, making this production truly interactive, the generally unseated audiences, who follow the Traveler literally from stage to stage, phase to phase, ultimately complete their own individual journey with hers.

"The essence of Barbara's poetry is all about the soul," says Enriquez, who also edits the Friday fashion and trends section of the Inquirer. "Her poetry is about a soul going through this journey in life. You have to understand certain things about yourself if you are to reach your destination.

"These days, dance has become so technical. So much attention is focused on the body, techniques and forms. One of the most influential ballet masters this country has ever had used to tell his students, 'I want to see the essence in your eyes, because the eyes are the windows of the soul'."

When a person dances (or performs) with soul, "you don't notice the skill at all. You only see the energy the person is exuding, coming to you all the way from the stage. All of us here are interested in spirituality. We want to help put soul back into the arts."

JOE Salazar, Marden Iglesias, Tonton Santos and videographer Ed Lejano
PHOTOS: JOHNNY VILLENA

DIRECTOR Virgilio "Katsch" Catoy with Impy Pilapil's sketches

Collaboration

"We" refers to the team of artists collaborating with Enriquez on the project, a bunch of seasoned pros from several creative disciplines. Katsch Catoy, who had been involved with dance companies like Ballet Philippines, directs. Kasilag's music will be rendered by the Philippine Women University's Music Ensemble. Complementing Lejano's videos in interpreting Ramsay's poetry is choreographer Gerald Mercado. The postmodern production design is conceptualized and executed by Antonio Salac Santos and Rachy Cuna. Part of the attraction of the production design are the 11 new pieces crafted by sculptor Impy Pilapil. The costumes are by Joe Salazar and Marden Iglesias.

The dancers supporting Enriquez include Dwight Rodrigazo, Orlando de Leon, Rency de los Santos and guest artist Ernest Mandap, a member of the Brumachon-Lamarche Company in France.

Together, they make the different dance sequences speak of themes such as silence, courage, tolerance, accommodation and crossing over into new life.

Aside from their spiritual inclinations, the vision to explore something new and break new ground unites these artists.

"We're inviting the yuppie to step back from his hectic work-work-work world," says Catoy. "'The Traveler' is a series of events flowing into one another. The disciplines also flow—from ballet to poetry to music. Spacewise, you also flow, starting from below stage to upstage, going up and going down again. It has to do with freedom of expression."

Costume designer Salazar enthuses about working with artists who are creative and flexible enough to stretch the conventional boundaries.

For example, Pilapil's elongated, steamed rattan sculpture pieces don't just lie around. They are laid down, carried, "translated into mobile performances that have to move with the rest of the events. The videos may be experimental, but they're not just entertainment. Each sequence in this show is complete in itself but still part of the big picture."

Complete and yet part of a greater whole. "The Traveler" is a mirror of its own message: "We have our own paths to follow, but we all reach the same destination."

Marge Enriquez, with RCBC Plaza, presents "The Traveler" at the RCBC Plaza Galleria Corridor (between Towers 1 and 2) on Aug. 9, 7:30 p.m.

Grieg and Tchaikovsky concertos get euphoric reception in Cagayan and Isabela

By Pablo A. Tariman

WHILE the militants braced for the Sona and Manila's cultural scene trained its eye at the latest CCP and NCCA operettas, music lovers in Cagayan and Isabela looked forward to hearing their first Grieg and Tchaikovsky concertos.

The concertos were on the occasion of the visit of pianists Reynaldo Reyes and Ingrid Sala Santamaria in this part of Northern Luzon. The two artists themselves were excited; they had looked forward to seeing a new landscape and, with it, a new audience.

It was quite perfect timing that when we planned the Tuguegarao concert, there was a new concert hall within the campus of the St. Paul University in the heart of the city. It is called the Learning Resource Center; within it is the Mother Madeleine Hall, which is air-conditioned and has two dressing rooms with clean bathrooms. When I checked it a few days before the concert, I found it had good acoustics as well.

No one could recall the last time local audiences heard a full concerto, but from what I had gathered, it could be the time many years ago when Fr. Ranhillo Aquino was soloist in a Rachmaninoff Second Concerto with Bishop Sergio Utleg on the second piano.

And so when I addressed my first Tuguegarao audience last July 21, I knew I was in for another concert of rediscovery—a new place, a new audience and, hopefully, a new generation of faithful followers of classical music.

We were lucky to have two baby grands (Santamaria on Piano 1 and Reyes on Piano 2, the first courtesy of Ms Quimpo, and the second, an old reliable we found in the campus gym).

As it were, the good turnout of audiences, led by Archbishop Diosdado Talamayan of the Archdiocese of Tuguegarao, led to a full and better appreciation of the Grieg and Tchaikovsky concertos. The open forum was participated in by no less than the good bishop (he saved the concert from cancellation with the intercession of Ms Pilar Pobre Cusi, a native of the place and now based in Cebu City).

A nun said she was thrilled, lawyer Carmelo Lasam (he—with his daughters in tow—was excited to discover the power of the piano in two full-length concertos) asked how long it takes to memorize two piano masterpieces. After informing the audience of the attempts to improve the cultural life in the city, Sr. Mary Angela Barrios, president of St. Paul University, wondered why when it comes to culture, we are always waylaid by lack of funds.

The intermission number of the St. Paul Chorale, under choral conductor Sr. Ma. Theresa Asencio, was impressive and so full of possibilities and it led me to think that a full-length Handel's "Messiah" is possible in Tuguegarao in December.

PIANISTS Ingrid Sala Santamaria and Reynaldo Reyes (center) with Isabela and Cebu music lovers (from left) Dr. Nilda Villaroman, Pilar Cusi, Carmen Carag, Ilagan Mayor Jojo Albano III and Victorino Cusi
PHOTO: VILLAMOR VISAYA JR.

But as the concert ended in a standing ovation for pianists Santamaria and Reyes, we looked forward to using culture as a tourism component and this we took up with Tourism regional director Bless Diwa, who sponsored the transportation of the touring party from Tuguegarao to Isabela and back and all the way to Manila (the PAL plane failed to land for our trip back to Manila). Tourists in this part of Northern Luzon could enjoy a good two- or three-day tourism package—two days in a hotel of their choice, a visit to the Callao Caves on the second day, and in the evening, a concert at Mother Madeleine Hall or kayaking with sportsman Anton Carag.

A cleaner Ilagan town greeted us in Isabela as we arrived for the fifth concert at Hotel Roman's Ville, which hosted the First Cagayan Valley International Music Festival last year.

It was the first time Isabela music lovers saw two upright pianos sharing the Hotel Roman's Ville stage and the first time an open forum followed after the concert.

Newly elected Mayor Delfinito "Jojo" Albano III cited the role of culture in improving the quality of life of the people of Ilagan and said the municipality is ready to be involved in future cultural presentations.

To get the most from the two uprights, we opened the top covering and even the lower wooden partition (just above the piano pedal). I told the audience that Grieg and Tchaikovsky concertos were meant to be played on grand pianos but since we had none, the uprights (courtesy of Mr. and Ms Ben Laccay and Mr. and Ms Babes Eslava) would do.

After more than three earlier exposures of these concerto from the same soloist, one thought one would be less involved in this latest performance. Santamaria's tones were even fuller on an upright and Reyes' sound duplicated the power of an orchestra. And besides, this modest venue with good acoustics had a way of bringing out freshness and intensity of any performance.

The Grieg concerto left the audience in awe but the Tchaikovsky concerto rendered them breathless. This time, Mayor Albano and the two bishops—Monsignor Utleg and Archbishop Talamayan—led the standing ovation for Santamaria and Reyes.

Former Isabela vice governor and now board member Manuel Binas gushed after the concert: "This concert is fascinatingly and awesomely beautiful."

In the open forum that followed, laymen's observations on the concertos were given professional insight by Reyes. Someone asked why classical music is associated with the rich and Reyes answered it was because piano lessons involved money and only the rich and the well-off can afford to buy the piano.

But even if the poor cannot afford to buy a good piano, a good violin and a first-class cello, from the concert reception given in Ilagan and Tuguegarao, we can conclude that appreciation of fine music is indeed not a monopoly of the rich. It is for everybody regardless of social status.

Our special thanks to Archbishop Talamayan and Fr. Bernie Corpus, St. Paul University in Tuguegarao, Mayor Albano, and Dr. and Ms Victor Villaroman in Isabela for hosting these two outreach concerts. When you get free venue with complimentary reception to boot, these are heaven-sent for unfunded touring groups who share fine music in the countryside regardless of the odds.

When you see an euphoric audience applaud a good performance, I am sure you get rewarded in other ways many times over.

Meanwhile, the two pianists will be in Bangkok, Thailand, next week for a performance of four concertos. The Schumann and Tchaikovsky concertos will be played at the Piyaphand Sanitwongse Foundation Concert Hall on July 30 while the Grieg A Minor Concerto and Rachmaninoff's Second will be played at the Mission Hospital Concert Hall on July 31.

They will return after a week for another outreach concert in Virac, Catanduanes, on Aug. 11 under the auspices of the Philippine National Red Cross Catanduanes Chapter under OIC David Templonuevo and Dr. Maricel Zantua.

Here and there

VANCOUVER-BASED Filipino pianist Dorothy Uyboco-Uytengso joins Reynaldo Reyes as soloists of Max Bruch's Concerto for Two Pianos to be played by the UST Symphony under the baton of Renato Lucas. This concert is on Aug. 5, 8 p.m., at the CCP Main Theater. The other featured artist in this concert is tenor Jose Randy Gilongo, who recently received his Master of Music degree from Elizabeth University in Japan. The Bruch piano concerto (the composer is known for his violin opus) is a first in the Philippines.

* * *

Two cellists from Peace Philharmonic Philippines are representing the country in the First Kobe International Cello Festival July 25-30. They are Jibbie Rose Reyes, a 14-year-old second-year high school student from the Cebu Institute of Technology, and Doris Malaque from St. Theresa's College. Among the distinguished musicians gracing the festival are Helene Gagne from Canada, Tatsuo Saito from Japan, Odile Bourin from France, Duk-Sung from Korea, John Michel from the US and Stephen Haack from Germany. Meanwhile, the NHK (cable television in Japan) again noted the participation of the two cellists from the Philippines and how they figured in the founding of an orchestra in Cebu. The PPP segment will occupy a portion of the festival music documentary to be aired worldwide.

* * *

From the looks of it, the transition from the Rufino-Angara era to the Jardin-Endriga tandem at the CCP will be smooth. As I write this, round of meetings go on at the CCP, with general assemblies for employees being conducted. The supposed farewell talk of Ms Rufino in last week's flag ceremony was aborted by rain.

* * *

Tomorrow's (July 31) opening of the Filipino Artists Series (FAS) will see how the CCP screening committee handles a concert programming involving several artists in one performance. Featured artists are cellist Wilfredo Pasamba, baritone Jonathan Zaens and pianist Mariel Ilusorio.

About the controversial music teacher we wrote about last week, well, it turned out she is not totally abhorred. One of the artists in the FAS series and a product of the Philippine High school for the Arts—Jonathan Zaens—said he learned a lot from this teacher whose strictness is always misinterpreted.

Rehearsal before the wedding

(From page E5)

watch Lara as Joan being tried mercilessly by the Inquisitor played by her own husband (well, not yet technically) and I think about how our own humanity is tried as we pursue our artistic meanings. I think for instance about how Lara's dagger looks belied murderous intent when I repeatedly nagged her about a scene she had difficulty with. I'm pretty sure that if I read her mind at that moment, I would have seen myself lying face down in a pool of blood. I think about the time when Michael yelled at me at full volume in a restaurant, the time I lost it with Chris (Garcia) for being stubborn, when Jamie (Wilson), Lee (Salazar), Lara and I had a really complicated four-cornered fight. (It took me threatening them with "You're giving me a good show and no more of this bulls--t or you're getting it from me!" to calm everyone down.) In the end it always turned out fine because we were all there for the same thing.

People ask me how I can appear so calm even when everything seems to be falling apart at the seams. I tell them that the secret is in having enough faith in the basic goodness and intelligence of people who have chosen to devote themselves to a pursuit for reasons that have to do with ideals rather than economics. It's a sure-fire formula for getting a show on stage or at least not going bonkers in the process.

Sight to behold

At the end of the rehearsal, after the others have left, Raymond comes up to me, asks me if I can once more take his scenes. I'm tired and hungry and practically seeing spots before my eyes, but I am not in the habit of denying anyone's professionalism and obsessive perfectionism. And Bagatsing on a roll is really a sight to behold. So we work the scenes once more, this time in minute detail. Lara takes blocking notes for him even as she plays Joan. I regard her affectionately knowing she is not doing it as his spouse but as a professional craftsman sharing her efforts with the team.

When we wrap up the rehearsals, we unwind over a couple of cold beers and chill-out music. Lara, who seems to have forgotten the bad mood she had made her entrance with, presents me with a litany of complaints that lately contribute to the rise of her stress levels, and Raymond, ever the cool cucumber, pitches in with a comment here and there and an impish grin. It's good to be with real people honestly seeking comfort from the wearying days, couched in a world of shared ideals, common allies, common battles. By the time they get up to leave, it is past 1 a.m. I sit for a while happily contemplating this zone of comfort and then make my move to go.

Gathering my papers, I catch sight of the petition my fiend brought in. Ooops, I'd forgotten about her. Last time I saw her, Lara let out a bloodcurdling yell. She probably fled in fright. I read the petition about the brewing leadership troubles at the NCCA. Signing it, I sigh. As if we artists didn't have enough problems. Another battle looms ahead. Where is Joan of Arc when we need her?

"The Lark" runs on Aug. 3, 4 and 5 at the St. Cecilia's Hall, St. Scholastica's College, Leon Guinto, Manila. Tickets are available at National Bookstore's Ticketworld or at AAL. Call 536-5844.

Rehearsal before the wedding: A tale of fact and friction

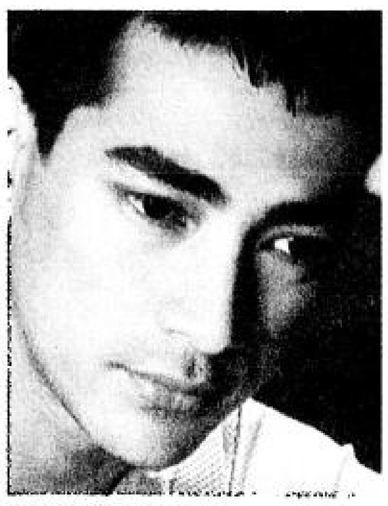
By Bart Guingona

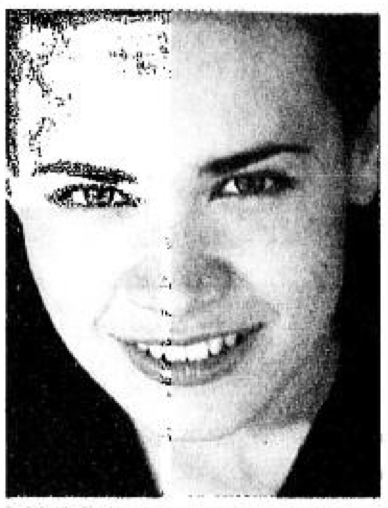
OF STAGE

WE are all sitting around amid a symphony of cell pone rings when the couple arrives, each half apologizing profusely. Normally, they are impeccably punctual for rehearsals and always come prepared and warmed up. But this isn't a normal rehearsal day. The couple, Lara Fabregas and Raymond Bagatsing, are two days away from their wedding and they are besieged by everyone, from aggressive TV interviewers to irate couturiers to concerned future in-laws, to "helpful" friends to bossy, stressed-out directors.

It's also a little over a week before "The Lark" opens and everyone's nerves are naturally beginning to fray. The costume mistress is tucked in a corner of the hall taking last-minute measurements while the stage manager is deep in discussion with his crew working out the property requirements. Cast members, in an attempt to hide their nervousness, exchange boisterous stories during the wait. The soundman rehearses his music cues on the CD deck. Chaos and mayhem and a tinge of panic permeate the smoke-filled rehearsal hall and Lara's pout clearly says, "I don't need any more of this s--t two days before my wedding!" Raymond comes up to me and again apologizes for being late and then thumbs at her telling me that she's really, really stressed, as if I couldn't see for myself. I pat my sympathy on his shoulder, try to ignore the pout and clap my hands as loudly as I can.

"All right, everybody! Listen! Game plan for today..." I then proceed to enumerate the goals we should accomplish for the day's rehearsal. Everyone settles down and takes their places. There is a hush and Michael (Williams, who plays Warwick), says his first line. Out of the corner of my eye, I see Raymond going into the lotus position and a friend coming through the entrance of the hall carrying a petition for my artists to sign regarding the NCCA leadership. I toss her a subdued wave and turn my attention to the scene unfolding before me.


RAYMOND Bagatsing


LARA Fabregas

Suddenly, in the middle of her first line, Lara lets out an unexpected, nerve-jangling "primal scream." For those of you who are unfamiliar with the work that actors do, it's basically an unbridled, insane yell at the top of one's lungs designed to clear the psyche and emotions of cobwebs and clutter. I thought this one would clear my ears of wax. She then excuses herself for "five seconds" and rushes to the bathroom. When she reemerges, she is quite placid, asking for her last line cue as if nothing had happened.

Gratifying stress

I look around at the rest of the cast and no one seems perturbed by what would normally have been considered utterly psychotic behavior. Raymond has shot her a cursory glance and returns to his meditation, the costume mistress examines the tape measure through her granny glasses, and the stage manager doesn't even bother to look up from his script. I ask myself if I'm the only crazy person in this room.

In truth, although the stress of putting up a production goes into high gear as the opening night draws nearer, there's nothing more gratifying than seeing a bunch of people so doggedly pulling together to keep the boat afloat. That it tells us about the value of pulling together for a cause (theater taught me this before GMA's Sona expressed it) is just one more way by which the value of the craft manifests itself. That makes the theater a place of wonder, where the human spirit is celebrated in a most human of endeavors.

Settling into the rehearsals, I

REHEARSAL/ p.E4

SHOPWISE

Shopwise Supercenter Unleashes the Wildest Deals in Town

UNTAMED Shopwise unleashed the wildest deals in town when it launched the Wild Deals promotion yesterday. At stake in this jungle paradise for bargain hunters are a brand new Nissan Frontier at 50% off, 50 JVC colored T.V. sets at 75% off, and 100 Nokia 3310 cellular phones at an unbelievable 85% discount. It's a first of its kind promotion that will surely bring out the animal in you.

SHOPWISE
Universal Motors Corporation

Universal Motors Corporation contract signing with Shopwise. From left: Shopwise Marketing Manager Frances J. Yu, UMC Senior Manager, Ad & Promo Dept. Lani de Leon

Choose one of three wild deals that is suited to your budget and shopping style: the Platinum deal, the Gold deal, or the Silver deal.

The Platinum Deal

Designed for heavy weight shoppers, the platinum deal gives you the chance to own a brand new Nissan Frontier. Every P10,000 worth of purchases collected at Shopwise during the promo period will entitle you to a platinum voucher. If you have the most number of platinum vouchers at the end of the promo period, you will have the first option to avail of the special 50% off deal on the Nissan Frontier (4x2 or 4x4 manual or automatic models) of your choice.

The Gold Deal

For wise shoppers who make Shopwise the store of choice, there's the gold promotion. Every P5,000 worth of purchases will entitle customers to a gold voucher. The top 50 customers with the most number of gold vouchers at the end of the promo period will have the first option to avail of JVC 21" Television sets at P3,000.

JVC Contract Signing with Shopwise. From left: Shopwise Vice-President for Merchandising Catherine Y. Tantoco, JVC (Phils.) General Manager Kazue Y. Salud, JVC (Phils.) National Sales Manager Edgar Francisco

The Silver Deal

There's also the Silver deal for every budget and lifestyle. Every P3,000 worth of purchases collected at Shopwise during the promo period will entitle customers to a silver voucher. The top 100 customers with the most number of silver vouchers at the end of the promo period will have the first option to purchase Nokia 3310 cellular phones for only P950. That's 85% off the regular price!

According to Catherine Y. Tantoco, Vice President for Merchandising at Shopwise, "The Wild Deals promotion was conceptualized to reward our loyal shoppers. Unlike your traditional raffle promotion in which winning is purely a matter of luck, we are allowing our best customers to avail of an extraordinary opportunity to own a luxury item of their choice at rock bottom prices. In fact, this promotion is a win-win proposition in many ways. Shoppers who shop at Shopwise enjoy its everyday low prices. If they are also members of our loyalty program, they continue to earn rebates on all their purchases at Shopwise, plus there is the exciting possibility of owning a brand new Nissan Frontier, a JVC colored T.V. or a 3310 Nokia Cellular phone. You can't lose with a deal like that!"

Furthermore she adds that, "By segmenting the deals into three levels, we tailor fitted the promotion across socio-economic brackets and shopping intensity. In short, there's something here for everybody."

Madman Martin Nievera Launches Wild Deals

The launch event reached jungle fever pitch yesterday with Madman Martin Nievera as guest of honor. Shopwise was transformed into a miniature jungle replete with a delightful showcase of color, light, sound and performance artistry as dancers garbed in animal costumes performed excerpts from the Broadway musical hit "The Lion King."

Heed the call of the wild and stampede to Shopwise today. This promotion will run from July 28 to October 28, 2001. Shopwise Supercenter is located at Festival Supermall-Filinvest Alabang and Pasong Tamo corner Vito Cruz extension in Makati. Shopwise partners for the Wild Deals promotion are Universal Motors Corporation, exclusive assembler and distributor of Nissan Light Commercial and Recreational vehicles and JVC (Philippines) Inc.

SHOPWISE
WILD DEALS
July 28 to October 28, 2001

Only at Shopwise can you find a Savannah of Wild Deals! Own a brand new Nissan Frontier, JVC TV or a Nokia 3310 cellphone for unbelievably low prices!

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Pounce and devour these killer deals from July 28 to October 28, 2001! Hurry before they stampede away!

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For every P5,000 worth of purchases made during the promo period, you get a GOLD Voucher. If you're one of the top 50 shoppers with the most GOLD Vouchers, a JVC 21" TV is yours for only P3000!

• Shopwise Alabang can be found at the Left Wing of Festival Supermall in Filinvest, Alabang Zapote Road, Alabang, Muntinlupa City. • Shopwise Makati can be found on the corner of Pasong Tamo and Vito Cruz Extension • You can also visit our website at www.shopwise.com.ph / You can also check your points thru our Wiseline at 9113507.

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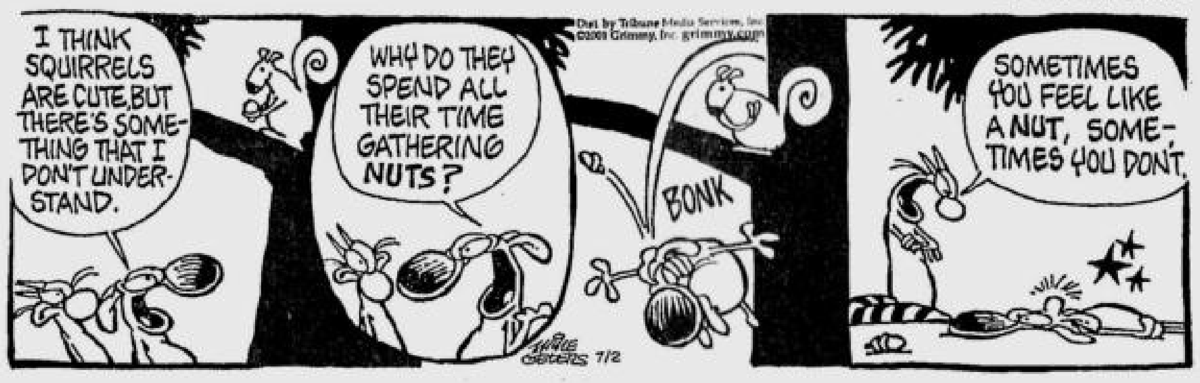
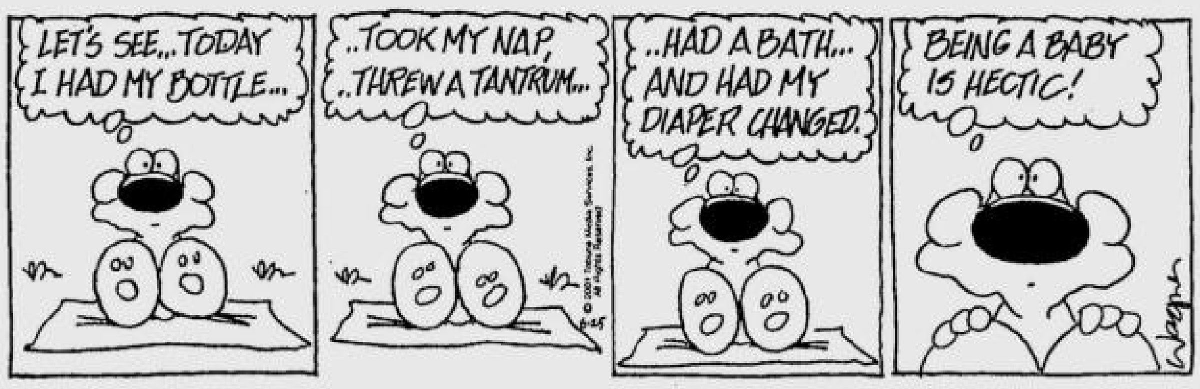
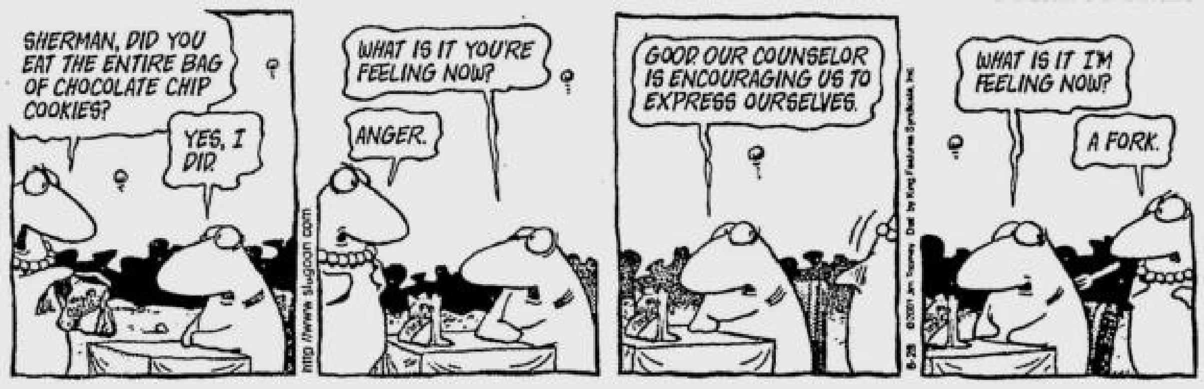
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM BY MIKE PETERS


I THINK SQUIRRELS ARE CUTE, BUT THERE'S SOMETHING THAT I DON'T UNDERSTAND.
WHY DO THEY SPEND ALL THEIR TIME GATHERING NUTS?
BONK
SOMETIMES YOU FEEL LIKE A NUT, SOMETIMES YOU DON'T.
Dist by Tribune Media Services, Inc ©2001 Grimmy, Inc. grimmy.com
MIKE PETERS 7/2

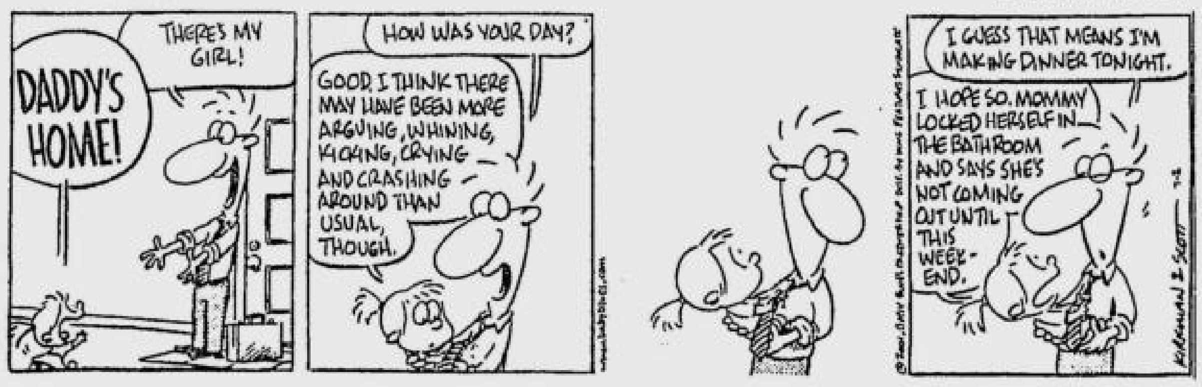
ANIMAL CRACKER BY FRED WAGNER


LET'S SEE...TODAY I HAD MY BOTTLE...
..TOOK MY NAP, ..THREW A TANTRUM...
..HAD A BATH... AND HAD MY DIAPER CHANGED.
BEING A BABY IS HECTIC!
WAGNER

SHERMAN'S LAGOON BY JIM TOOMEY


SHERMAN, DID YOU EAT THE ENTIRE BAG OF CHOCOLATE CHIP COOKIES?
YES, I DID.
WHAT IS IT YOU'RE FEELING NOW?
ANGER.
GOOD. OUR COUNSELOR IS ENCOURAGING US TO EXPRESS OURSELVES.
WHAT IS IT I'M FEELING NOW?
A FORK.
http://www.slugcom.com
8-28 ©2001 Jim Toomey Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT


DADDY'S HOME!
THERE'S MY GIRL!
HOW WAS YOUR DAY?
GOOD. I THINK THERE MAY HAVE BEEN MORE ARGUING, WHINING, KICKING, CRYING AND CRASHING AROUND THAN USUAL, THOUGH.
I GUESS THAT MEANS I'M MAKING DINNER TONIGHT.
I HOPE SO. MOMMY LOCKED HERSELF IN THE BATHROOM AND SAYS SHE'S NOT COMING OUT UNTIL THIS WEEK-END.
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Delta Burke, Arnold Schwarzenegger, David Sanborn, Paul Anka, Lisa Kudrow, Vivica A. Fox, Hilary Swank, Laurence Fishburne

Happy Birthday: The year ahead could be hectic, with lots of action on the home front as well as at work. You like to be in the spotlight, so prepare to enjoy the ride. You'll be the problem solver, the sympathetic listener, and the guardian angel for all those you care about. Trust in your own worth and talent to achieve the satisfaction that will make you happy. Your numbers: 10, 14, 18, 23, 31, 36

ARIES (March 21-April 19): It's time to tie up loose ends. Look over contracts or financial matters that are outdated and no longer valid. You need to clear up problems that are disturbing an older family member.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You will be emotional if your partner wants to do one thing and you another. Try to compromise and spend more time with one another instead of going your separate ways.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Problems with a female colleague will get out of hand if you take part in gossip that could damage both your reputations. Think twice before spilling the beans.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Try some of the new products you've been buying that promise to make you look and feel better. You need a change to feel that you are keeping up with the times.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You can bet that your emotional partner will not be pleased if you are spending too much time at work. Leave troubles at the office and face the worries mounting at home.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Relatives will be willing to give you a helping hand along with words of wisdom if you tell them why you are feeling down in the dumps.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You can make a difference at work if you let others in on your unique and speedy way of doing things. Your generous contribution will bring you admiration and acknowledgment.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Your weepy attitude must be kept under control. Your partner will become fed up if you don't get your act together and stop overreacting to inevitable occurrences.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You will encounter an interesting proposition. Weigh the pros and cons carefully and make sure that it is legitimate before giving the OK. Don't become involved with a colleague.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Your need to be accepted may lead to unreal promises. Put your efforts into organizing and planning. If others offer to help, accept but don't criticize their efforts.

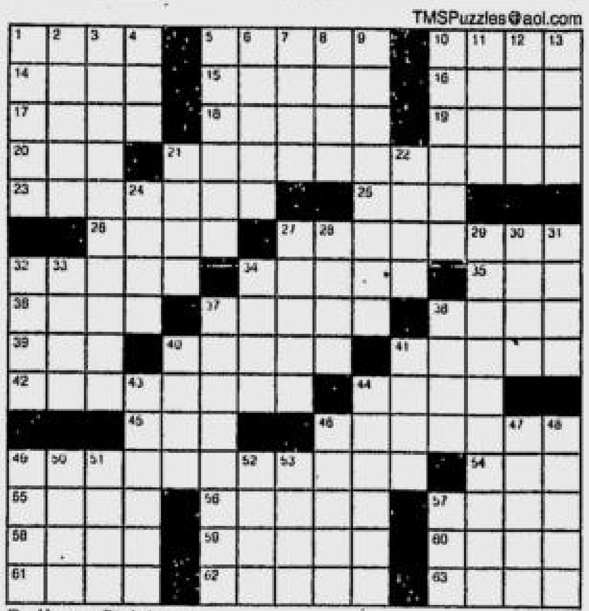
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Don't allow others to limit you. Your home environment may be in an uproar due to disruptions that you can't change. Be moderate and try to keep things mellow.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Mix business with pleasure, and invite colleagues out after hours. Financial ventures should be lucrative if you have taken care of all the angles.

Birthday Baby: You are such an entertaining tyke. You are a charming chatterbox with an inquiring mind who wants to know all, see all and do all. You need to stand out in a crowd.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Norma Steinberg
San Francisco, CA
6/13/01

ACROSS
1 Summoned
5 Standing by the plate
10 Writer Quindlen
14 October stone
15 Term of tenancy
16 Hitchcock's "__ Window"
17 Olympian Devers
18 One Osmond
19 Diva's number
20 Internet address: abbr.
21 Elvis' genre
23 In fashion
25 Motorists' org.
26 Go over 21
27 Be a tourist
32 NCO, casually
34 Even
35 Smidgen
36 Is obligated
37 Cringe
38 Small town
39 Mauna __ volcano
40 Hawks' opponents
41 "Truly __ Deeply"
42 Veteran
44 Tropical tree
45 Mischievous child
46 Concoction for baby
49 No sweat!
54 Cost to participate
55 Writer Dinesen
56 Fry briefly
57 Space saucers, briefly
58 Otherwise
59 Burning coal
60 Chinese: pref.
61 Forest ruminant
62 Enjoys a novel
63 Break sharply

DOWN
1 Fake
2 Separated
3 Basic dietary need
4 Building extension
5 Nearly
6 Instruct
7 Canine warning
8 Large landmass
9 Adolescent
10 Noah's peak
11 Stout's Wolfe
12 Tooth's companion?
13 Sea east of the Caspian
21 Shine's partner?
22 Willie Wonka's creator
24 Carries laboriously
27 Waste conduit
28 Currier's partner
29 Hunk
30 Lester's pickin' partner
31 Nervous
32 Do it alone
33 Runaway GI
34 Tennis zero
37 ASCAP member
38 Aromatic unguent
40 FDR coin
41 Female horse
43 Heart: slang
44 Fireplace sticks
46 Destined
47 Infamous Helmsley
48 Greek storyteller
49 __ Piper
50 __ of Dogs
51 Facility
52 Renown
53 Oscar-winner Gooding
57 Ship letters

SATURDAY PUZZLE ANSWER

S	T	O	O	P	■	C	L	A	M	■	S	L	O	T
T	I	D	A	L	■	R	E	N	E	■	C	A	G	E
A	K	I	T	A	■	U	N	D	O	■	A	U	R	A
N	I	N	E	T	Y	D	A	Y	W	O	N	D	E	R
■	■	■	S	E	A	■	■	S	E	M	■	■	■	■
S	A	P	■	S	K	A	T	■	D	E	B	R	I	S
A	G	U	E	■	U	R	I	S	■	G	E	E	S	E
F	I	R	S	T	T	I	M	E	C	A	L	L	E	R
E	L	I	T	E	■	D	I	R	E	■	T	E	R	I
R	E	M	A	N	D	■	D	E	A	R	■	T	E	N
■	■	■	■	T	E	T	■	■	S	E	W	■	■	■
F	R	E	S	H	M	A	N	S	E	N	A	T	O	R
O	O	Z	E	■	U	R	A	L	■	E	L	I	D	E
P	U	R	L	■	R	O	M	E	■	G	E	L	I	D
S	E	A	L	■	S	T	E	W	■	E	S	T	E	S

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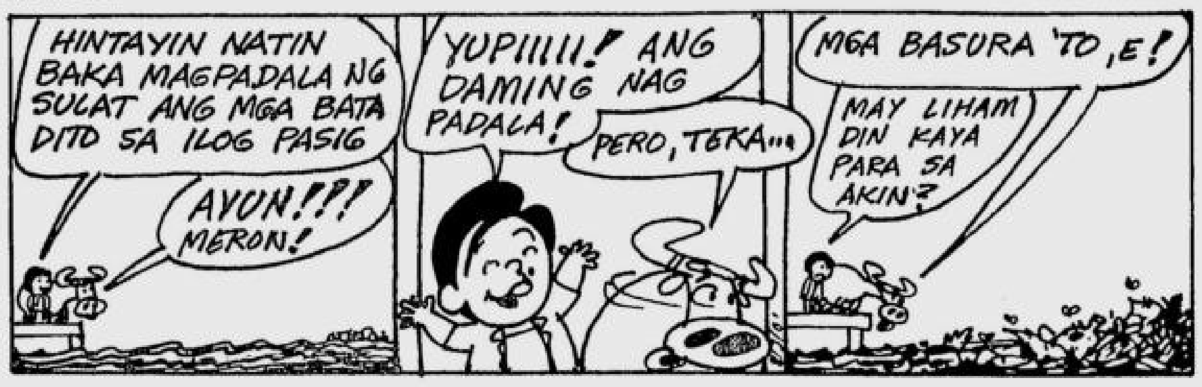
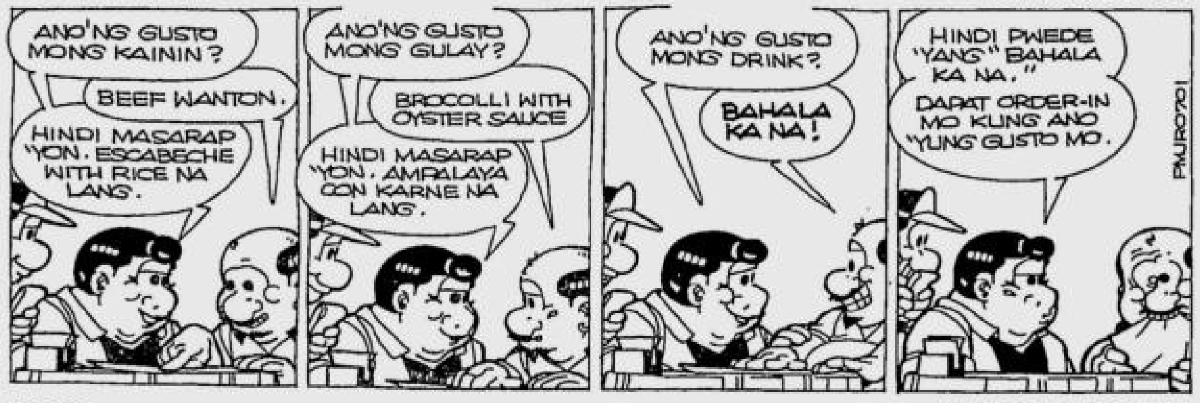
6/13/01

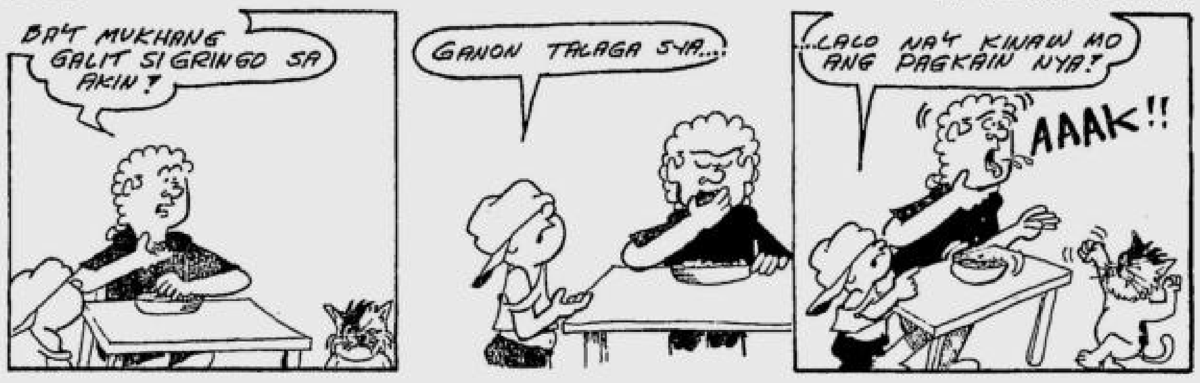
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA


HINTAYIN NATIN BAKA MAGPADALA NG SULAT ANG MGA BATA DITO SA ILOG PASIG
AYUN!?! MERON!
YUPIIIII! ANG DAMING NAG PADALA!
PERO, TEKA...
MGA BASURA 'TO, E!
MAY LIHAM DIN KAYA PARA SA AKIN?

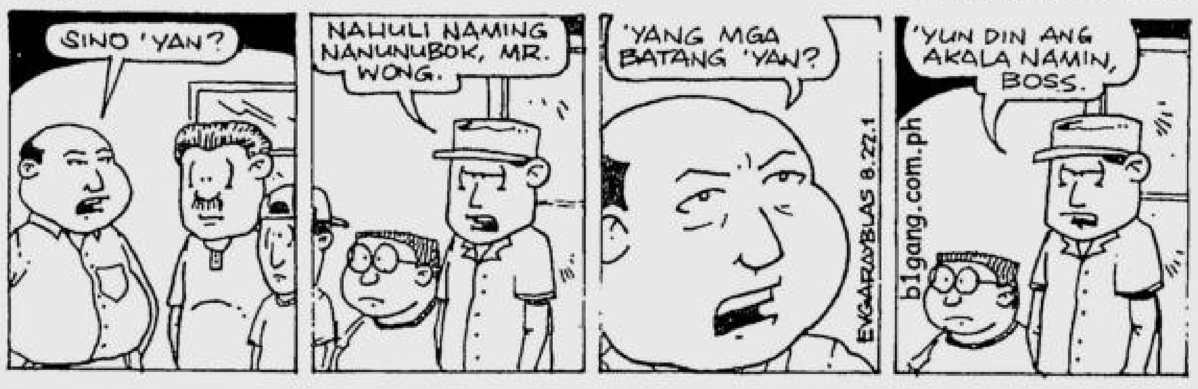
PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR


ANO'NG GUSTO MONG KAININ?
BEEF WANTON.
HINDI MASARAP 'YON. ESCABECHE WITH RICE NA LANG.
ANO'NG GUSTO MONG GULAY?
BROCOLLI WITH OYSTER SAUCE
HINDI MASARAP 'YON. AMPALAYA CON KARNE NA LANG.
ANO'NG GUSTO MONG DRINK?
BAHALA KA NA!
HINDI PWEDE "YANG" BAHALA KA NA."
DAPAT ORDER-IN MO KUNG ANO 'YUNG GUSTO MO.
PMJR0701

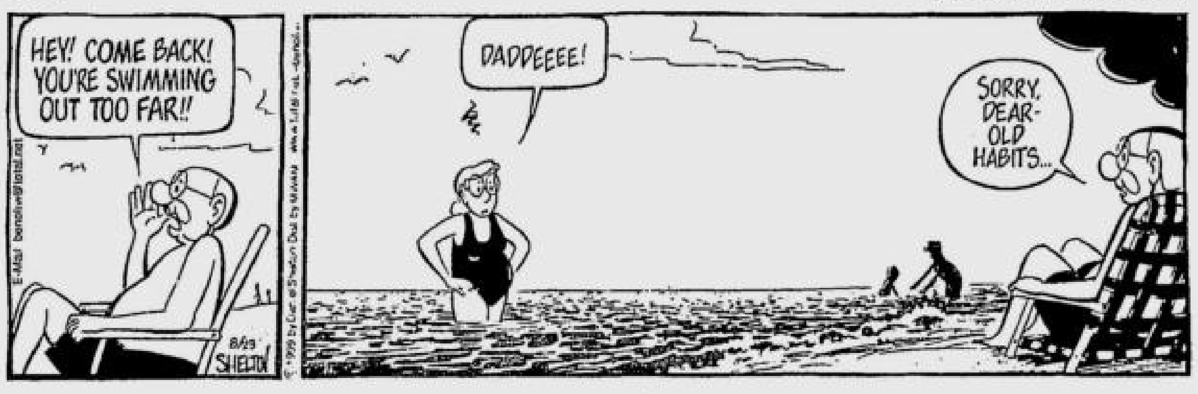
SIMO BY EDGAR DIONELA


BA'T MUKHANG GALIT SI GRINGO SA AKIN?
GANON TALAGA SYA...
...LALO NA'T KINAIN MO ANG PAGKAIN NYA!
AAAK!!

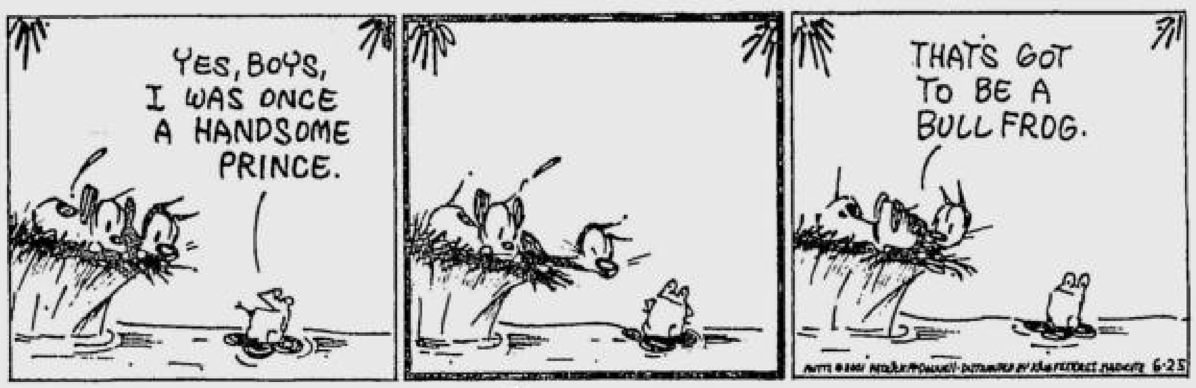
B1 GANG BY ATS11/ JEA/ FEVG


SINO 'YAN?
NAHULI NAMING NANUNUBOK, MR. WONG.
'YANG MGA BATANG 'YAN?
'YUN DIN ANG AKALA NAMIN, BOSS.
EVGARAYBLAS 8.22.1
b1gang.com.ph

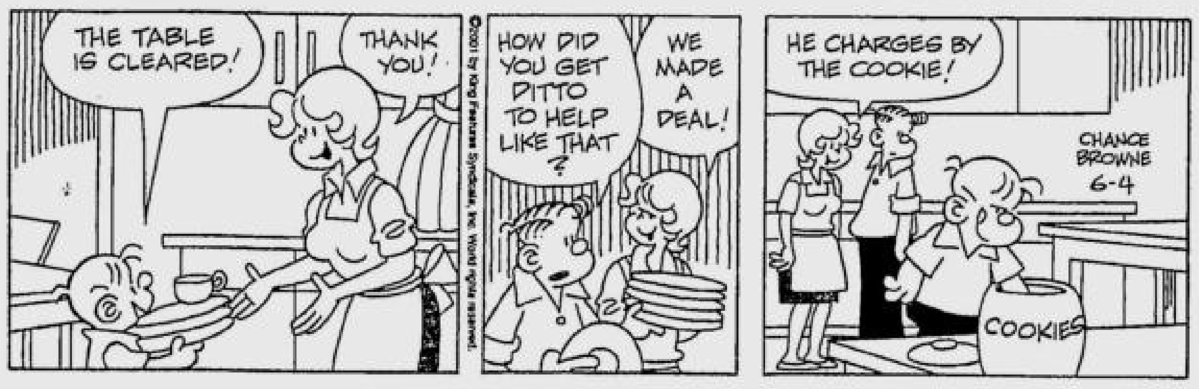
BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON


HEY! COME BACK! YOU'RE SWIMMING OUT TOO FAR!!
DADDEEEE!
SORRY. DEAR-OLD HABITS...
8/13 SHELTON

MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL


YES, BOYS, I WAS ONCE A HANDSOME PRINCE.
THAT'S GOT TO BE A BULL FROG.
6-25

HI AND LOIS BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER


THE TABLE IS CLEARED!
THANK YOU!
HOW DID YOU GET DITTO TO HELP LIKE THAT?
WE MADE A DEAL!
HE CHARGES BY THE COOKIE!
CHANCE BROWNE 6-4
COOKIES
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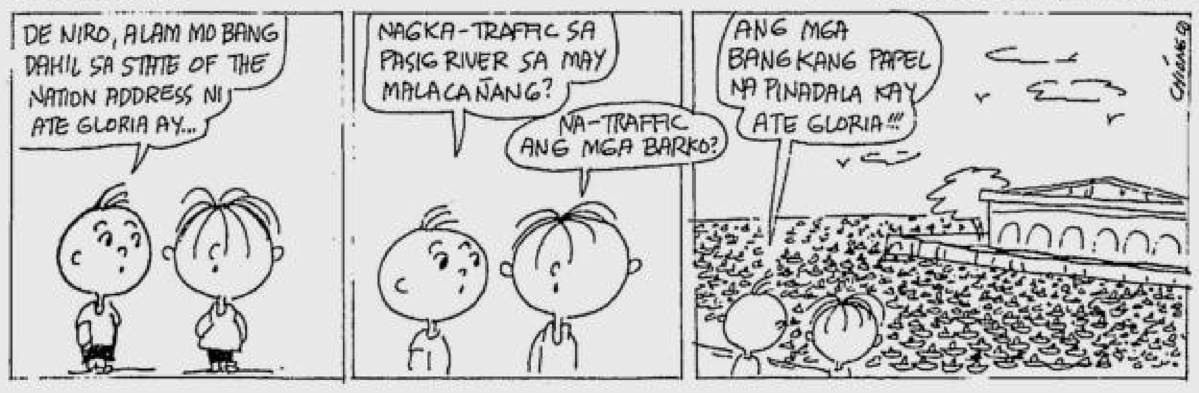
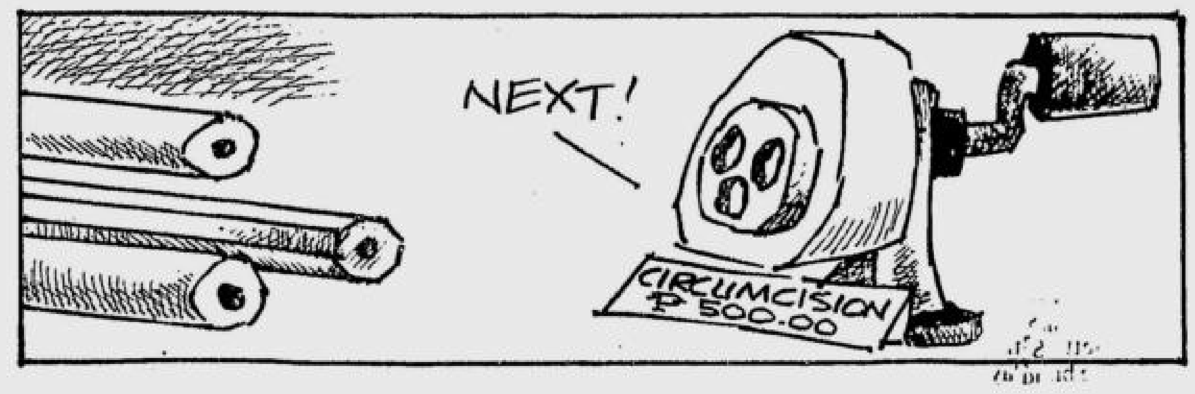
LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


DE NIRO, ALAM MO BANG DAHIL SA STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS NI ATE GLORIA AY...
NAGKA-TRAFFIC SA PASIG RIVER SA MAY MALACAÑANG?
NA-TRAFFIC ANG MGA BARKO?
ANG MGA BANGKANG PAPEL NA PINADALA KAY ATE GLORIA!!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING


NEXT!
CIRCUMCISION ₱ 500.00

Visionary heals a patient who was in coma for two months

PURELY PERSONAL

Josephine Darang

SOMETIMES there are miracle stories that many find to be unbelievably true. Such a miracle happened to Norma Apalang Francisa of Iba, Zambales, who was confined in a hospital in Winnipeg, Canada in February 2000.

Norma, a former nurse at Lions Gate Hospital, experienced severe stomach pain in the second week of January 2000. The doctor advised surgery. She was examined afterward and again was told to go through another operation on Feb. 28.

This time, the surgery was unsuccessful that Norma was placed in the ICU for two months. Her family, however, did not give up and asked help from other relatives who are also doctors. Her comatose condition was induced, according to the doctor, by a liter of pus.

Herminia Marquez Diana, who used to work as a caregiver in Canada, was asked by her friend Orbita to visit Norma in the hospital. Herminia, who is called "Tita Min," was already retired at this time and had concentrated on healing and taking down messages of the Virgin Mary through inner locution.

Herminia's first visit took place on March 21, 2000. She saw how a life support system helped Norma survive. She prayed over her and went home. During a deep meditation, the Lord told Herminia that He would heal Norma.

On the second visit on March 31, Herminia and Orbita prayed over Norma asking the Lord to give them His healing power.

This time, Herminia talked to Norma and told her they were there to ask the Lord to heal her. She also told Norma to ask the Lord to help her, so she could be with her family again. Herminia suddenly saw tears coming out of Norma's eyes.

On their third visit on April 7, Orbita and Herminia saw Norma move her legs and hands. The attending nurse quickly checked the apparatus to find out how that happened.

On April 14, Orbita and Herminia saw Norma in the recovery room. The doctor feared, however, that she would not be able to talk. But she did, and her first words were, "Thank you, Lord."

Her mission

Herminia, who now lives in Queen's Row, Bacoor, Cavite, told me she was led to her mission of taking down Our Lady's messages and healing when she visited Medjugorje on June 18, 1996. She went to the place with friends from Vancouver, Canada.

In Medjugorje, she became close to a couple, Jim and Bobbi, who translated the message of Our Lady given to her by inner locution on June 26, 1996.

Partly it said: "Please allow me, your Blessed Mother, to work through you. Remain open. Pray, my child, pray without ceasing. There is much work for you to do in my garden. Prepare yourself every day. Ready your heart, listen to my word and then act."

2,000 Hail Mary's

When Herminia came back to the Philippines in 1996, she started the praying of 2,000 Hail Mary's on the first Saturday of every month at the Queen of Peace Parish in Queen's Row, Bacoor, Cavite.

Everyone is invited on Aug. 4 at 8 a.m. for the praying of 2,000 Hail Mary's at the Queen of Peace Parish.

The Queen of Peace Parish is located on Area B. According to Fr. Paul de Leon, it will be held until 6 p.m. Letty Zapanta tells me of the efficacy of Our Lady's intercession through the 2,000 Hail Mary's. To ask for healing, please call Herminia Diana at (046)-572-2730.

Sale of Loving Hands' icons

THE LOVING Hands of Joseph and Mary Foundation held a successful exhibit of the religious icons painted by Nanette Stamper during the birthday dinner of Babot Aspiras-Oreta at Savannah Moon. Cutting the ribbon were lawyer Mario and Babot Oreta.

Present were Jocelyn Poon, Brenda Reyes, Alice Cabahug, Gloria Garcia, Ruby Co, Vivian Uy, Margaret Kwok, Fortune Ledesma, Ines Villareal, Aida Aspiras, among others.

There are more icons available. Please call Mario Somera at 812-6313, if you wish to inquire.

VISIONARY Herminia Diana (left) and patient Norma Apalang Francisa who was comatose but was brought to life.

Blessed Padre Pio to be canonized

ELENITA Grande called me the other day and informed me that Blessed Padre Pio might be canonized on Sept. 23 in Rome. Which is why she and her group are leaving for Rome after passing by the Holy Land.

The pilgrimage also includes Sta. Rita de Cascia, St. Francis of Assisi and La Salette. The chaplain is Fr. Teofilo Rustia. Those interested can call Elenita Grande at tel. 631-9571 or Catholic Travel at 524-2888.

St. Philomena prayer booklet

THE FEAST of St. Philomena falls on Aug. 11. Those who wish to obtain her prayer booklet can write to Universal Living Rosary Association of St. Philomena at 430 Mayon St., 1114 QC. Please enclose a self-addressed legal-size envelope with a P10 worth of stamp.

St. Clare feast

THE POOR Clares all over the world will celebrate the feast of St. Clare of Assisi on Aug. 11. Novena begins on Aug. 2 and ends on Aug. 10. A big celebration will take place at the Poor Clares Monastery in Barrio Cabid-an, Sorsogon, Sorsogon. Should you wish them to pray for you, please write them at the above address.

Another monastery is located in Aritao, Nueva Vizcaya. Please write to Sr. Auxie Tan.

Heartwarming contribution

A RESTAURANT cook from Mandaluyong responded to the appeal of seminarian Herbert Camacho. He said that even if he is only giving a small contribution, he knows it is good to share. The reader e-mailed me his response and I felt very glad that he did.

I am also moved by the responses of at least nine people who want to help the children of Nuestra Señora de Guia Parochial School in Magallanes, Cavite.

LAWYER Mario and Bebot Oreta cut the ribbon opening the icon exhibit. Looking on are Gloria Garcia, artist Nanette Stamper, Vivian Uy, Mario Somera, Helen Ong and Fortune Ledesma.

Seminary needs help

A POOR seminary in the province needs donations of rice and canned goods and financial support for its seminarians. Please e-mail me at josiedpurely@ yahoo.com for details. By the way, readers from the United States and Saudi Arabia have e-mailed me to ask for prayers for their sick relatives.

Paco parish holds novena

THE SAN Fernando de Dilao Parish in Paco will hold a nine-day novena from Aug. 10-18 at 6:30 p.m. in preparation for the feast of the Santo Sepulcro on Aug. 19. Chair of the fiesta is Ursula "Sol" Alturas Yu, wife of Primo Yu and president of the CWL. Parish priest is Msgr. Domingo Cirillos Jr. More on this beautiful church in a future column.

Seminar

ROJO, the keyboard player and vocalist of a leading Irish Christian band, is coming to Manila next month to conduct a worship seminar. The seminar will be held on Aug. 1-3 at the Lay Force Center of the San Carlos Seminary in Guadalupe, Makati City, 7-9 p.m. For details, call Malu or Vit at 637-4998/6680.

Will miss you, Lolo Doc

DR. Rudecindo Roces was called "Lolo Doc." I was very blessed to have known such a good man. He always made me feel welcome in his house in Legazpi.

Lolo Doc passed away on July 5. His wife, former Mayor Mely Roces, and his children know he is in Heaven. We will miss you, Lolo Doc. Your son Billy will miss you most especially.

Goodbye, Ambassador Solita

IN CASE her friends don't know it yet, former Ambassador to the United Nations Solita Aguirre passed away on July 19. She was buried on July 22. To her family, our deep condolences. Tita Solita was a devotee of Our Lady of Peñafrancia.

Cabanatuan's new bishop

MSGR. Ronnie Bangcud, SSS, will be ordained as bishop on Aug. 2, feast of St. Peter Eymard, at 9 a.m. at the Sta. Cruz Church.

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Fiery first semester for performing arts

BY AMADÍS MA. GUERRERO

IN JANUARY, artists and writers flocked to the Edsa Shrine to help depose the sorriest excuse of a President that we have ever had. Their counterparts in the regions also made their voices heard.

Before the Fall, a group of writers had issued a manifesto taking to task their colleagues (if you can call them that) in the Senate for defending Asiong Salonga: an aging bureaucrat, a sanctimonious former journalist and a loudmouth virago.

When Asiong was arrested, the mass demonstrations that ensued were a mockery of the spirit of Edsa I and II; and the genuine artists and writers did not participate here (unless you consider FPJ a real artist).

The impressive Philippine production of "Miss Saigon" ended a six-month run at the Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP). It played to a capacity audience every night, a feat in itself. The musical has since moved to Hong Kong, again with Filipino talents in major roles.

Outstanding plays

Among the outstanding plays presented during the first half of the year were Nick Joaquin's "Pinoy Agonistes," a Teatro Pilipino production directed by Nonon Padilla at Greenbelt's OnStage; and Repertory Philippines' "Our Town."

Joaquin's latest play is thematically significant, recalling the dark days of the Marcos dictatorship. In Emperatriz, zestfully played by Tessie Tomas and Mitch Valdez, Joaquin has created a masterfully comic character. Padilla jazzed up the production, making it lively and entertaining, adding more comic touches and Tagalog lines, updating it politically, with the cast adlibbing to relieve the tension during the serious moments.

It is now time to translate "Pinoy Agonistes" into Tagalog, to make it even more effective.

"Our Town," the achingly affecting classic by Thornton Wilder, was judiciously presented as a "memory play" by director Anton Juan, who should follow this up with another Wilder classic, the even more challenging "The Skin of Our Teeth."

"Celebration," by now almost a Repertory tradition, gets better all the time, featuring sprightly dancing and singing from Broadway shows (directed by Baby Barredo). Show-stoppers, the young talents of Repertory, gave their older counterparts a run for their money.

It was a period of great and near-great performances by pianists and violinists, accompanied by the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra (PPO), at the Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP).

Young pianist Ariel Dechosa (Jan. 15), who plays with flair, impressed the audience with his interpretation of Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 5, the last and greatest of his piano concertos. Josefino Toledo conducted vigorously sans baton.

Lost in her music

When pianist Cecile Licad performs (April 6 at the CCP), you get the impression she only plays for herself. She is utterly lost in the music, swaying, breathing heavily; and if you're in one of the front rows, it can be distracting.

In the lyrical passages, her tones are pure and melting. But in the fortissimo passages she attacks the chords in a fury, like Mother Earth aroused, trembling, hair all tousled, tendrils dancing in the air. The results can be riveting.

Licad is a Philippine phenomenon. Make her a National Artist, despite her youth, the next time around.

Alfonso Bolipata (March 12) triumphed in the demanding Prokofiev Violin Concerto, and received a wild ovation from the audience. Conductor Oscar C. Yatco, Bolipata's former mentor, was visibly proud of him.

The next PPO Concert Season, with "For Our Children" as the theme, opens on Sept. 14.

Over at the Meralco Theater, another young violinist, Alexander Tomescu of Romania—handsome, poised and assured—dazzled the audience with not one but two "killer" concertos, by Tchaikovsky and by Mendelssohn. He was assisted by the National Philharmonic Orchestra (NPO) under the baton of Hermenegildo Ranera.

The show had to go on. While Tomescu played that evening, NPO director Redentor Romero was battling for his life in hospital. He died the following morning, March 28, at the age of 71. Romero had guest-conducted many major orchestras in the world, and brought classical Philippine music to an international audience.

Another major figure in music who passed on is soprano Lilia Reyes, who died in Rome in April.

The Philippine Educational Theater Association (Peta) came back strong in February to March with the innovative "Komedi Club," a series of 15 short plays ranging from the hilarious to the risqué. Mini cafés sprouted at the Raha Sulayman Theater in Intramuros; and there were striking sculptures, including mobile art, by the members of Kasibulan, a group of prominent women artists.

Dance

Along with the Bayanihan, the Ramon Obusan Folkloric Group has been our major exponent of the folk dance. Obusan and his researchers have traveled around the archipelago, to the villages, mountains, forest clearings and coastal towns, to tirelessly document the dances of our ethno-linguistic groups.

All encouragement should be given to this important troupe. In their latest, "Obra Maestra II" (May 19, CCP), they were joined by the US-based Likha-Pilipino Folk Ensemble and Mga Anak ni Inang Daigdig (Children of from Smokey Mountain).

ANA Bitong and Tonipet Gaba

PETA'S "Komedi Club"

However, the first half of the show was more exciting than the second. The show itself was too long—3½ hours—and the grand finale was not that rousing.

The first half of the year ended with three wonderful shows: Terence McNally's "Master Class," by the Rep and Philippine Opera Company, with the formidable Baby Barredo as Maria Callas; the excellent and highly disciplined (despite two falls—maybe the floor was slippery) Royal Winnipeg Ballet of Canada; and the nostalgic "Porter on Parade," featuring the songs of Cole Porter as interpreted by soprano Josephine Roces-Chavez, baritone Eugene Villaluz, flutist Antonio Maigue, pianists Delia Gamboa-Besa and Raul Sunico, and guitarist Butch Roxas.

In June, artists and environmentalists gathered again to protest the plan by Manila Mayor Lito Atienza to construct a school in the historic Mehan Gardens. During the first "Picnic in the Park," Atienza, who was abroad, sent actress-councilor Cita Astals, to represent him. Astals, a picayune prima donna, objected to the presence of Manila Vice Mayor Danny Lacuna.

The second gathering picnic-rally was held last Sunday, June 24, Araw ng Maynila, at the Luneta Orchidarium.

Atienza, who calls himself an artist because he is a former Bayanihan dancer, has sounded a discordant note, ironically, at a period when there is a flowering of the arts.

Heny Sison

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

August 6-10 (Mon-Fri) 9:00-12:00 noon, P3,500 GUM PASTE FLOWER MAKING by: Heny Sison *A unique method of making gum paste flowers using a foam pad, a pair of scissors & cutters. The course covers: the Rose, Carnation, Stephanotis, Tulips, Filler Flowers, Cattleya, Christmas Holly, Poinsettia, Daisy, Lilies &Quick leaves. Full participation.

August 6-10 (Mon-Fri) 1:30-5:00 p.m., P5,000 ADVANCED CAKE DECORATION by: Heny Sison *This course covers: baking of fruitcake, covering it with marzipan and rolled fondant. Learn South African and Australian method using delicate icing wings, curtainings, ribbon insertion done on rolled fondant covered cakes. Full participation.

August 11 (Saturday) 10:00-4:00 p.m., P1,500 CHINESE COOKING MADE EASY I by: Katherine C. Sion, restaurateur (Ding Hao & Fat Kat), caterer and an expert in Chinese Cuisine. *Sweet Corn Soup with Quail Eggs, Shrimp with Vegetables, Crab in Ginger and Onion Sauce, Pata Tim with Vegetables & Mango with Sago.

August 13 (Monday) 10:00-4:00 p.m., P1,500 LAURIAT SAMPLER I by: Katherine Sion *Beancurd with Eight Treasure Soup, Sliced Beef with Broccoli in Oyster Sauce, Fried Shrimp with Ham on Toast, Steamed Lapu-Lapu with Soy Sauce, Fried Rice with Assorted Meats and Almond with Lychees

August 14 (Tuesday) 9:00-12:00 noon, P1,200 CAKES WITH DISTINCTION by: Heny Sison *Sinful Chocolate Cake, Caramel Cake, Custard Cake, Canonigo with Creme Anglaise & Mango Coulis and Layered Brazo de Mercedes

August 14 (Tuesday) 1:30-5:00 p.m., P1,200 COOKIES FOR COFFEE by: Heny Sison *Chunky Chewy White Choco Macadamia Cookies, Espresso Biscotti, Chocolate Chip Biscotti, Greek Cookies and Almond Wafer

August 15 (Wednesday) 9:00-12:30 p.m., P1,500 CAJUN COOKING I by: Jill Sandique, Chef/Food Consultant & Food Stylist, Blue Ribbon graduate of Peter Kump's New York Cooking School *Corn and Crab Bisque, Shrimp Pie, Jambalaya, Red Beans and Rice, Blackened Red Fish and Pecan Pralines

August 15 (Wednesday) 1:30-5:00 p.m., P1,200 COFFEE! COFFEE! COFFEE! by: Aileen Anastacio, owner of Ces't Si Bon and Goodies N' Sweets, graduate of culinary at the California Culinary Academy *If you are planning to open a coffee shop this course is for you. Learn the four fundamentals of coffee brewing, home espresso, guide to steaming & foaming. Recipes: Caffé Latte, Caffé Mocha, Caffé Americano, Cappucino, Espresso, Macchiato and Espresso con Panna. Make fun toppings and garnishes and master the art of coffee making.

August 16 (Thursday) 9:00-12:00 noon, P1,200 BROWNIES & BARS by: Heny Sison *Chewy Moist Brownies,Carrot Cake Bars with Cream Cheese Icing, Lemon Cheesecake Bars, Brownies with Caramel Center and Butterscotch Bars

August 16 (Thursday) 1:30-5:00 p.m., P1,200 DESSERT COFFEES by: Aileen Anastacio *Learn how to make a variety of iced coffee drinks; a whole new category of ways to enjoy espresso: Recipes: Almond Coffee Freeze, Icy Rum Coffee Cream, Toffee Coffee, Mudslide Malt, Mocha Rumba, Rocky Road, Mocha Malt and more!

August 17(Friday) 10:00-4:00 p.m., P1,500 DIMSUM I by: Katherine Sion *Congee, Siomai, Dumpling, Chicken Feet, Fried Shrimp Ball and Buchi

August 18 (Saturday) 9:00-1:00 p.m., P1,200 BASIC CAKES & ICINGS FOR BEGINNERS by: Heny Sison *Butter Cake with Butter Icing, Moist Chocolate Cake with Fudge Icing, Mocha Cake with No-Melt Butter Icing, Lemon Chiffon Cake with Boiled Icing & Sponge Cake with Whipped Cream Icing

August 20 (Monday) 9:30-4:00 p.m., P1,200 BAKING I by: Heny Sison *Super Moist Chocolate Cake with Mocha Filling and Fudge Icing, Crispy Sylvana, Cream Puff, Lemon Pie, Butterscotch Bars & Sables

August 21 (Tuesday) 9:30-4:00 p.m., P1,200 CAKE ART SPECIALTIES II by: Jill Sandique *Sesame Spice Cookies, Cappucino Charlotte, Spiced Apple Cake with Caramel Pecan Sauce, Flourless Chocolate Cake & French Apple Pie with Custard Sauce

August 22 (Wednesday) 9:00-12:30 p.m., P1,200 CUBAN CUISINE by: Jill Sandique *Palomillo Steak, Tostones, Moros y Critianos, Fish Pudding, Roast Pork, Cuban Sandwich and Flan de Leche

August 22 (Wednesday) 1:30-5:00 p.m., P1,500 BAKED PASTAS by: Aileen Anastacio *Beef Lasagna, Vegetable Lasagna, Chicken Macaroni, Baked Spaghetti and Baked Seafood Pasta

August 23 (Thursday) 9:00-12:30 p.m., P1,500 ITALIAN COOKING I by: Jill Sandique *Zucchini Omelet, Melanzane alla Grigha, Pasta e Piselli, Country Roast Chicken,Insalata Mista & Pears Piedmont Style

August 23 (Thursday) 1:30-5:00 p.m., P1,500 DIPS & SALSAS by: Aileen Anastacio *Tomato Salsa, Pineapple Salsa, Roasted Corn Avocado Salsa, Creamy Potato and Tuna Dip, Blue Cheese Dip, Hummus, Baba Ghanouj,Chili Crab & Tomato

August 24 (Friday) 9:00-4:00 p.m., P1,500 BASIC BREAD BAKING WORKSHOP by: Heny Sison *Learn a variety of breads uisng basic sweet dough. Recipes: Pan de Sal, Cinnamon Roll, Adobo Roll, Cheese Roll & Dinner Roll

August 25 (Saturday) 9:30-3:30 p.m., P1,500 DESIGNER PIZZA & CALZONE by: Jill Sandique *Classical Cheese Pizza, Thai Chicken Pizza, Peking Duck Pizza, Goat Cheese Pizza, Shrimp Scampi Pizza, Smoked Salmon Pizza, Moo Shu Chicken Calzone

August 27 (Monday) 9:00-4:00 p.m., P1,200 HOME STYLE SWEETS by: Heny Sison *Brazo de Mercedes, Petit Fortunes, Prune Cake, Sansrival, Tocino del Cielo, Malacañang Roll & Bruun Butter

August 28 (Tuesday) 9:00-4:00 p.m., P1,200 BAKING II by: Heny Sison *Ensaymada, Ube-Butter Cake, Sour Cream Pound Cake, Walnut Pie, Cheesecake Tart and Crema de Fruta.

August 29 (Wednesday) 9:00-12:30 p.m., P1,200 DEEP FRIED PASTRIES by: Jill Sandique *Churros, Bunuelos, Beignets, Castagnola, Potato Puffs, Cannoli alla Siciliana, Bonus recipes: Yeast Raised Doughnuts and different kinds of fritter batters.

August 29 (Wednesday) 1:30-5:00 p.m., P1,500 MODERN ITALIAN COOKING by: Aileen Anastacio *Deep Fried Mozzarella with Herbed Tomato-Anchovy Sauce, Spaghettini with Prosciutto, Cream and lemon Sauce, Fillet of Turkey Breast with Apples, Scallops with Parsley, Garlic and Wine Sauce and Zuccotto.

August 30 (Thursday) 9:00-12:30 p.m., P1,500 ITALIAN COOKING III by: Jill Sandique *Zucchini a Scapece, Gnocchi de Patate, Casserole Roasted Lamb, Rosemary Roasted Potatoes, Tomato & Cucumber Salad and Amaretto Cake

August 30 (Thursday) 1:30-5:00 p.m., P1,500 MODERN ITALIAN PASTAS by: Aileen Anastacio *Spaghetti Al Nero with Squid Ink Sauce, Pasta Alla Norma with Tomatoes, Eggplant, Basil and Mozzarella, Linguini Al Gorgonzola, Pasta Alla Papalina with Ham, Peas and Egg Sauce, Spaghettini Con Bagnabrusca with Lemon Anchovy Sauce and Spaghetti Al Tonno with Tuna in Tomato Cream Sauce

August 31 (Friday) 9:00-3:00 p.m., P1,500 CREPE WORKSHOP by: Jill Sandique *Learn the techniques of crepe making in this full participation class. On the menu: Crepe Suzette, Strawberry Crepe, Mango-Pandan Crepe, Crepe ala Mode, Spinach Roulade, Beggars Purses and Chicken Mushroom Crepe

Watch Heny Sison's free demo on Italian Desserts at Julius Maggi Kitchen, Nestle Center, #31 Plaza Drive, Rockwell Center, Makati on August 21, 23 & 25 from 2-5 p.m. For more information, please call 726-1016/726-9232

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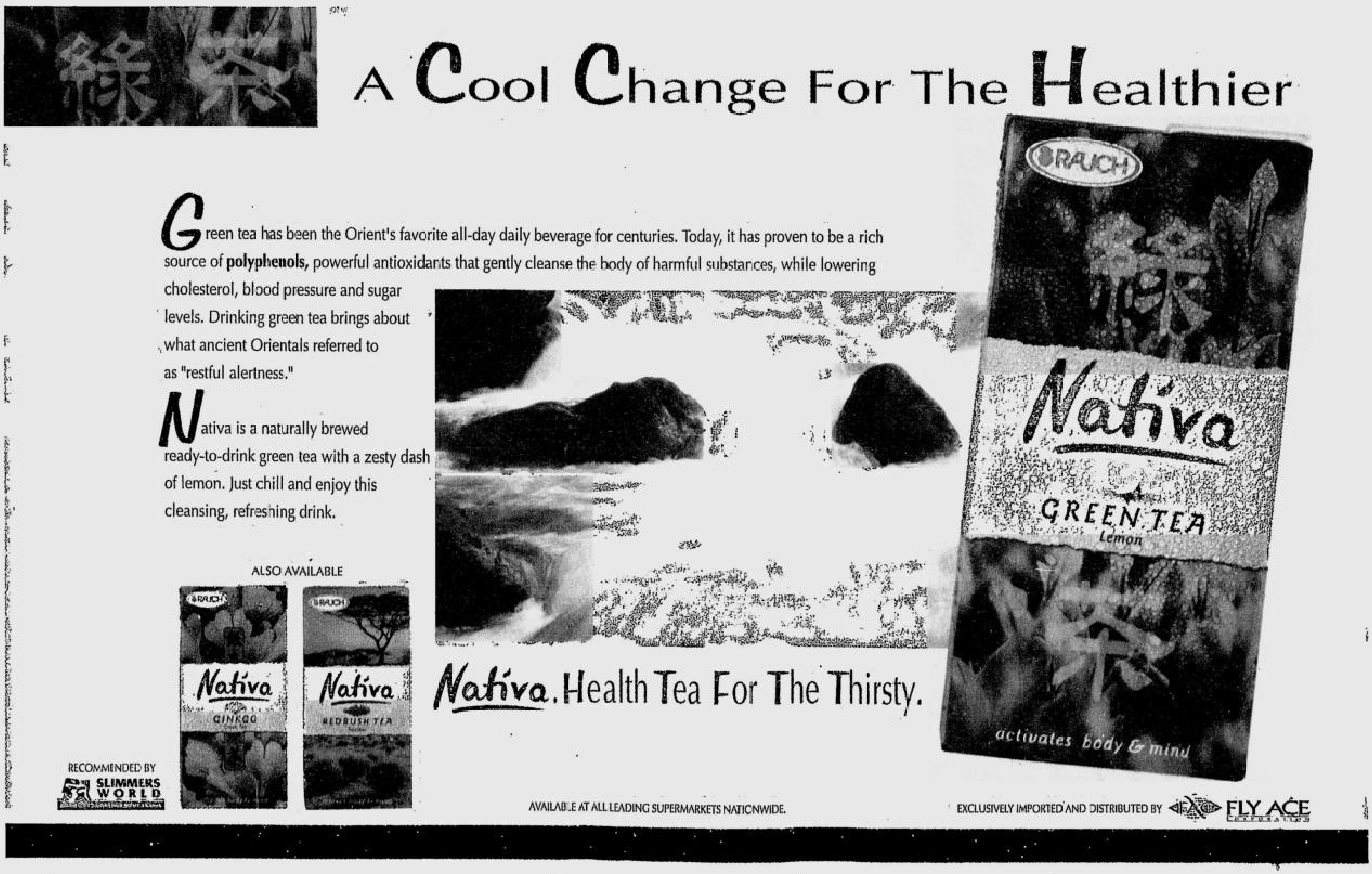

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Walt Disney's 'Read Along' series

KIDS today are more advanced than those born a generation or two ago. Three-year-olds who can read with comprehension are a common sight in preschools. They can even do simple arithmetic. What these children can achieve with the proper training is unimaginable. But ultimately, they are still kids and the importance of play and fun in their development toward becoming a well-adjusted person must never be underestimated.

It is with this in mind that Walt Disney Co. developed its "Read Along" series. Made up of a read-along book and a sound recording of the contents, the package introduces young children to famous Disney stories while teaching them to read at the same time. The 24-page beautifully illustrated color book is very attractive, and the recording not only contains the story but also character voices, vivid sound effects and music.

Now available in the local market are 10 titles of these book and CD packs. Priced at a very affordable P250 per title, the "Read Along" stories relive the magic of the timeless films popularized by Disney and guarantee hours and hours of reaming pleasure for any child.

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The titles recently released include famous children's classics adapted by Disney and box-office successes of the past few years: "The Original Story of Winnie the Pooh," "Cinderella," "Lion King," "Toy Story," "Dinosaur," "A Bug's Life," "The Jungle Book," "Lady and the Tramp," "101 Dalmatians" and "Pinocchio." Watch out for other titles soon.

The book and CD pack collection is manufactured by Viva Records Corp., a Viva Entertainment Co. under license from the Walt Disney Co.

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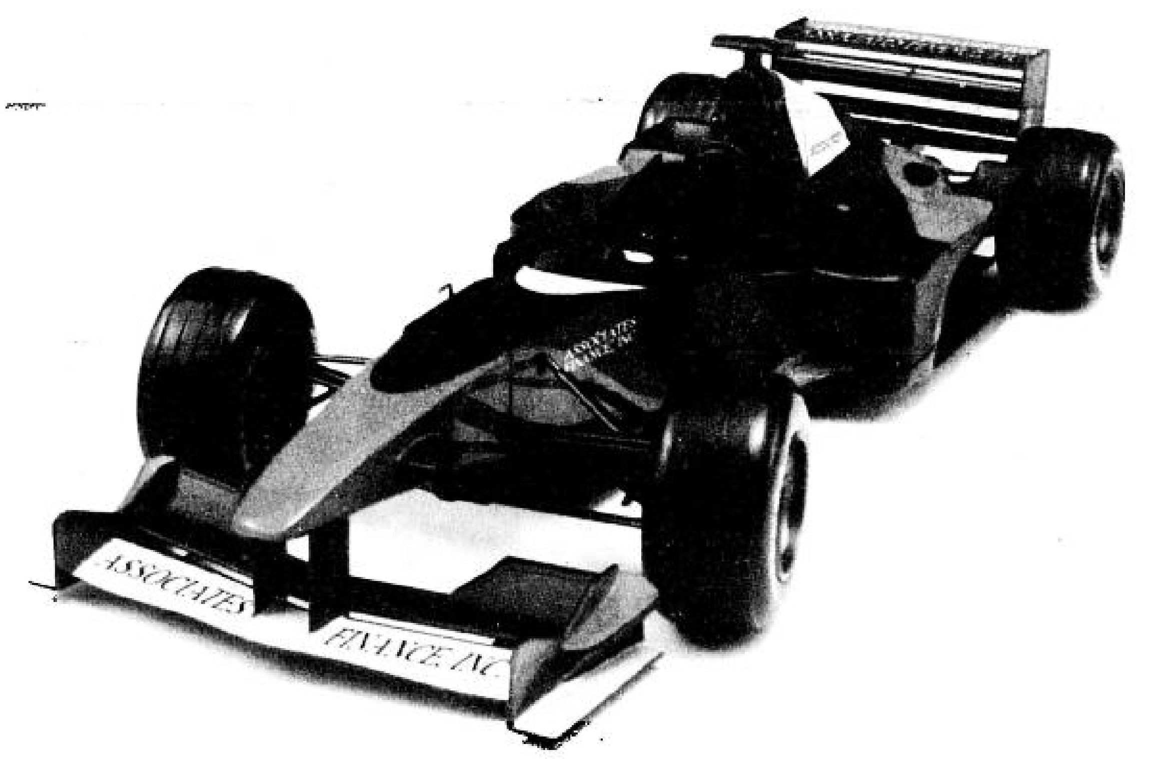

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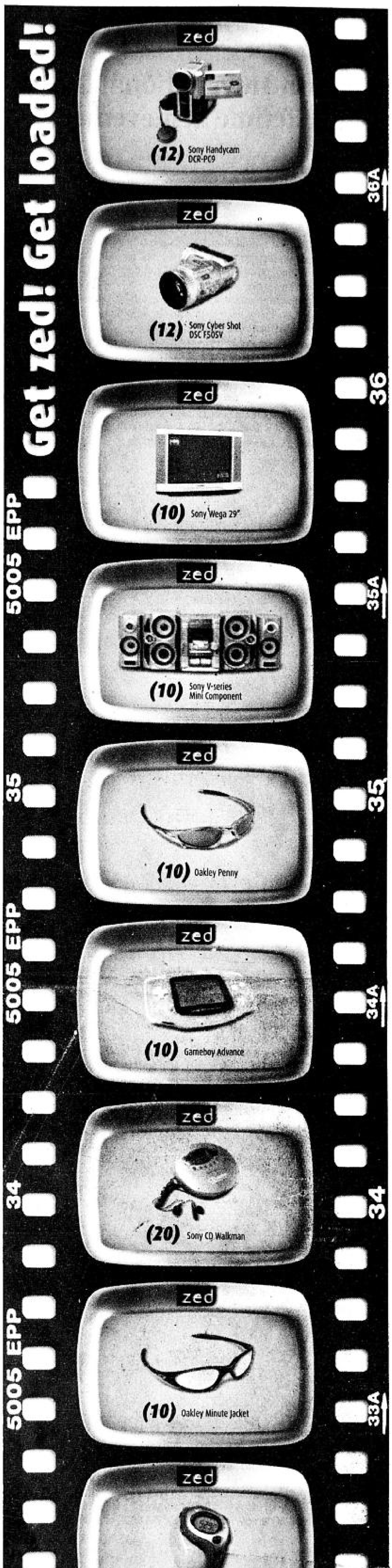

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Deseret International founders honored with lifetime achievement award

DURING a recent convention in Salt Lake City, Utah, Nu Skin Enterprises (NSE), a Utah-based distributor of personal care and nutrition products, presented the Force for Good Lifetime Achievement Award to Dr. William Jackson and his wife Audrey. The Jacksons are the co-founders of Deseret International Foundation, an organization which provides corrective surgery to patients in the Philippines and other countries who, otherwise, would not have access to such services.

The lifetime achievement award was established by NSE to recognize individuals who have made a significant personal commitment to an endeavor that changes lives for good.

In making the presentation before a large crowd of 8,000 NSE distributors and representatives in Salt Lake City, Sandie Tillotson, NSE senior vice president, said, "We are pleased to recognize Dr. William Jackson and his wife Audrey Jackson." Tillotson proceeded to explain how the Jacksons became involved in humanitarian service.

"In 1989" he said, "after living three years in the Philippines and growing to love the people, (William and Audrey) were concerned about the children who were suffering from disfiguring disabilities." Tillotson explained that, under the guidance of the Jacksons, the Mabuhay Deseret Foundation was formed in the Philippines. Children were brought from all over to receive corrective procedures and new hospitals were opened to treat more children.

After returning to the United States, the Jacksons came into contact with other people who had similar experiences, and a new organization evolved--the Deseret International Foundation. The mission of Deseret International is to assist local health providers to develop permanent, year-round programs that enable them to more adequately and expeditiously deal with specific health problems that are correctable and will enhance the patient's quality of life.

Each year, Deseret International sponsors over 10,000 surgical corrections which average less than $30 per procedure. Approximately 50 doctors per year volunteer to travel from the United States at their own expense to provide specific training and assistance to sites located across the globe, including the Philippines. partnerships currently exist within 16 countries including the Philippines, India, Brazil, Nigeria and the Dominican Republic. And the list is growing each year.

"Because of the determination and vision of (the Jacksons)," Tillotson concluded, "children who once hid behind their mother's skirts to avoid being seen now smile proudly. Children who once needed to be carried in order to move about now walk straight and tall on their own. Because of the efforts of these two people, thousands of lives have been improved."

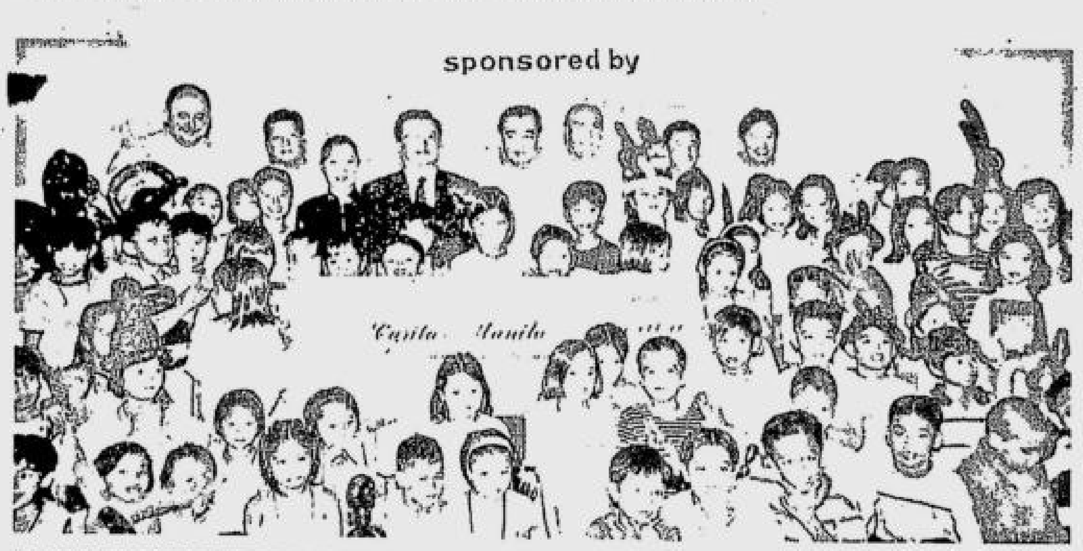
Nu Skin Enterprises became involved with Deseret International in 1994 and has partnered with it on many projects providing monetary donations for operating expenses and design and printing services to publish the foundation's newsletter and other materials.

SENATOR-BROADCASTJOURNALIST WINS UN AWARD

Broadcast journalist and Senator Loren Legarda-Leviste recently received the prestigious Global 500 Roll of Honor for Environmental Achievement Award from the United Nations Environment Program (Unep) for her outstanding contributions to the protection of the Philippines' environment. Legarda now holds the distinction of being the first and only Filipino to achieve this honor, and joins past Unep awardees former US President Jimmy Carter, The World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), and UK primate expert Jane Goodall. Currently the newest endorser of Ariel laundry detergent which is a major sponsor of her new environment program called "Luntiang Pilipinas," Legarda-Leviste championed the cause for a healthier ecology by heightening public awareness of environmental problems through her weekly TV programs "Pep Talk" and "The Inside Story". Her subsequent news magazine program "Earthlink" became the first television documentary series on the environment and was awarded both the KBP Golden Dove Award and the EarthSavers Media Award. With the Senator above are some of the Global 500 awardees from Malaysia and Kenya.

KOOLER INDUSTRIES AWARDED

Kooler Industries received its 4th Anca award from the 12th Annual National Consumer Union of the Philippines. The event was held recently at the Manila Ballroom of the Manila Hotel. Shown (from 2nd left) are Bishop Sonia Y. Lim; Larry Factoran of Kooler Industries; lawyer Quirino Marquez, president and chair of Consumers Union of the Philippines; and Lili Nicolas, secretary general, Consumers Union of the Philippines accompanied by a Ms PBA 2001 candidate (far left).



PHILIPS CHARITY PROGRAM

Philips Philippines president and CEO Pratt Hsu (back row, fourth from left), Caritas Manila executive director Msgr. Francisco Tantoco, Jr. (back row, fourth from right) and other Philips officials pose with some 100 Caritas Manila orphans during the company's 'A Light for a Life' carnival party at the Westin Philippine Plaza. Philips donated P100,000 in support of Caritas Manila's 'Bukid Kabataan' rehabilitation and healing program for abused, exploited and abandoned children. A portion of the funds will also go to Caritas' educational assistance program for poor but deserving students. Also shown are (back row, from left) Philips Semiconductors-Cabuyao general manager Georges Bobin; Philips Lighting general manager Mario Hernandez; Pratt's wife Angela; Philips Semiconductors-Calamba general manager Doug Sampson; Philips Philippines HR director Jun Mayo and Philips Consumer Electronics general manager Tony Lim.

ADULT Care

AGGIE PINILI, Account Manager SPROJECTS@INQUIRER.COM.PH **ARIES B. ESPINOSA**, Assistant Editor

Add a decade to your life

The keys: vegetarian diet, regular exercise, no smoking

IT's tried-and-true advice—eat better, get some exercise, quit smoking, and you'll live longer. But how much longer? A new study shows you might just add a full decade—10 years of good-quality living.

"Even making modest changes (in lifestyle) looks like it adds *many* years to your life," says Gary Fraser, MBChB, PhD, professor of medicine and epidemiology at Loma Linda (Calif.) University. His study appears in the July 9 issue of *Archives of Internal Medicine*.

For the study—which he began in 1976—Fraser sent questionnaires to more than 34,000 men and women, all members of the California Seventh-Day Adventist Church and all over age 30. Each was asked numerous, detailed questions regarding medical history, weight and height, diet, level of physical activity, and smoking habits.

While physical disabilities preclude some respondents from getting more vigorous exercise, Fraser says, others seemed to avoid exercise. "We wanted to focus on the effects of choosing not to exercise," he says.

"Compared with other Californians, we found that Adventist men lived about 7.3 years longer and women lived about 4.4 years longer," says Fraser. "And for vegetarian Adventists who eat meat (no more than) once a month — which accounts for about 30 percent Adventists—the differences in life expectancy swell to 9.5 years in men and 6.1 years in women. Those are pretty big numbers."

It wasn't just diet that made the vegetarians so much healthier, Fraser says. "A vegetarian is much more than someone who doesn't eat meat," he points out. "They're much more likely to eat legumes, exercise a bit more, are more health conscious."

While other studies have focused on risk factors like cholesterol and blood pressure, Fraser says his is the first to look at health behaviors—"things people can readily change."

Fraser's findings mirror similar studies conducted in Japan, says Bradley Willcox, MD, a fellow in gerontology at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center and in geriatric medicine at Harvard University, both in Boston. Wilcox is co-investigator of the Okinawa Centenarian Study and author of the book, ''The Okinawa Program''.

"Our studies show that populations that follow what we describe as healthy behaviors do live profoundly longer — up to 5 to 10 years longer than those who don't," says Willcox. "And most of those years tend to be disability-free."

Fraser's study is more evidence attesting to "the power of lifestyle over genetics," says Willcox. "In our work, we've found that lifestyle accounts for about two-thirds of life expectancy; only one-third is due to genetics."

"Okinawans are very active, but they're not out pounding the pavement jogging," he says. "They do things they enjoy — walking, gardening. They also do karate and a traditional dance similar to Tai Chi, which gives them cardiovascular fitness as well as strength and better balance. All this keeps them lean, and leaner people get less cancer. It keeps bones dense, metabolism efficient, keeps them flexible, which is important for reducing risk of falls, a major cause of illness and death in older people."

While Fraser's study did not look at the impact of religion, Willcox says he considers spirituality—and having a support system—to be essential in a healthy lifestyle. "We look at it as four legs of a chair—diet, exercise, psychosocial factors, spirituality—and each leg has to be in balance," he says. *(from WebMD Medical News)*

Molicare's leak protection guarantee

DEPENDABLE adult diapers are a must. They must be able to support all sorts of activities—brisk walking, long travel or simply going about one's daily routine. Considering the rising cost of prime commodities, adult diapers need not be an additional burden. They must be able to withstand acute incontinence.

Hartmann's Molicare adult diaper has included the wetness-repellant inner cuffs in its adult incontinence diapers. The cuffs provide perfect protection against leakage at the sides due to prolonged or heavy use.

"Molicare is your best bet when it comes to heavy use and reliability," assured Dr. Antonio C. Macatangay, president of Medical Center Trading Corporation.

"It features elastic foil backing that enables the body to move comfortably," he said.

Molicare adult diaper is distributed by Medical Center Trading Corporation and is also available in all Mercury Drugstores nationwide.

Willy Lascano is MCTC product manager of Molicare adult diaper in the Philippines.

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When our love grows old

IF WE think about it, old age is not a stage in life that's exclusively for our grandparents and other aging members of the family. When a loved one retires, becomes bedridden and grows old, the children or grandchildren also go through the changes old age brings.

It is a special time for all of us.

Elderly life ushers in a reversal of roles within the family. It is now our turn to care for our aging relatives who nurtured and guided us from infancy. Now that our elderly loved ones begin to lose physical strength, youth and independence, they become like our children needing comfort, love and attention. We are now to bear the lamp in their twilight years. The child is father to man again.

Maybe people grow old because we need to be reminded of the more important aspects of life. Old age is indeed a precious moment for the younger caregivers to express gratitude, respect, and generosity to our parents and grandparents. The changing hands of time bring with it a continuity of the circles of love and care we pass on from generation to generation. Because ultimately, love never grows old and only love transcends time.

Yes, old age can be one of the most rewarding parts of life, not just for our old timers but for the whole family.

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Complete with an antibiosis and deodorization layer for extra defense against infection-causing bacteria and odor. Dr. P's breakthrough antibiosis and deodorization layer effectively controls harmful germs that cause abscesses and other skin infections. Based on tests conducted by the Food Technology Development Centre of Taiwan, Dr. P's antibacterial agents actively kill the microorganisms Staphylococcus Aureus (98.03 percent) and Bacillus Coli (65.29 percent). While a powerful deodorizer reduces the unpleasant smell of urine and feces to provide users with a cleaner, more comfortable feeling.

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Dr. P is also recommended for post-maternity and post-surgery care and hygiene. Available at all leading supermarkets and drugstores nationwide.

Study: exercise helps mental health

CHICAGO, July 22—Elderly women who exercise regularly are less prone to suffer mental decline, another indication that physical activity helps stave off some of the frailties of aging, researchers said on Sunday.

"This finding supports the hypothesis that physical activity prevents cognitive (mental) decline in older women," said study author Kristine Yaffe, a psychiatrist and neurologist at the University of California at San Francisco.

The researchers tracked nearly 6,000 mostly white, healthy women aged 65 or older living in planned communities, such as nursing homes, whose mental faculties and levels of exercise were evaluated over a six- to eight-year span.

Those in the highest quartile of exercise—measured by calories expended walking, gardening, or more rigorous activities—were 26 percent less likely to develop cognitive decline than those in the quartile who exercised the least.

For example, for every mile per day the women walked, they lowered their risk of mental decline by 13 percent, the researchers said. Walking speed was not a factor.

A few previous studies have linked exercise with better mental health, but the latest study adjusted for confounding variables such as smoking and use of hormone replacement therapy.

Yaffe cited several possible benefits of regular exercise among the elderly, including increasing cerebral blood flow, reducing the risk of cardiovascular disease in the body and brain, and stimulating nerve cell growth.

The report, which was published in the journal Archives of Internal Medicine, said at least one in 10 people older than 65 and half of those over 85 develop some form of cognitive impairment ranging from mild mental deficits to dementia.

"Further research is needed to determine if physical activity programs could prevent clinically significant cognitive impairment and if our findings can be replicated in other populations," Yaffe wrote. *Reuters*

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FOR THE DIFFERENTLY-ABLED

The Australian Embassy's deputy head of mission, Tony Melville, turns over sporting manuals to Michael Barredo, president, Philippine Sports Association of the Differently-Abled, in a ceremony held recently at Australian Centre, Makati City. The sporting manuals will be distributed to major chapters of the sports association throughout the country. The manuals include 'Coaching Athletes With Disabilities: General Principles'; 'Beginning Coaching Level 1 Manual, Coaching Athletes with an Intellectual Disability'; and 'Coaching Amputee and Les Autres Athletes'. The publications came from the Australian Sports Commission and Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

MSA DONATES 1000 BOOKS

MSA Tutorial and Review Center, the largest tutorial and review center in the country, donated more than 1,000 textbooks and reviewer books to Senator Loren Legarda's 'Libro ni Loren Foundation'. The whole collection consists of volumes of reviewer books on different subject areas for students of all levels authored and published by MSA. The donation, made during the inauguration of MSA Academic Advancement Institute, was part of MSA's pledge to assist less fortunate but academically gifted students who are the primary beneficiaries of Loren's Foundation. 'Libro ni Loren' helps students in Camarines Sur and other localities and barangays. Shown during the handover ceremony are MSA directress and founder Merle Alferez and Senator Legarda.

Major awards for Guam visitors bureau

DURING the recently concluded Travel Tour Expo 2001 (TTE 2001) sponsored by the Philippine Travel Agents Association (PTAA), the Guam Visitors Bureau (GVB) bagged three major awards for their participation in this year's event. The Bureau received 3rd place for most popular booth, 2nd place for best booth design and the winner of the best in marketing effort. A delegation from Guam headed by James Nelson, general manager of GVB, assisted travel consumers with their questions regarding Guam.

Jimmy Dee and the Chamonitas performed during the whole show, giving visitors to TTE 2001 a glimpse of the warmth and hospitality of Guam. Also present during the show was Joseph Zitnik, general manager of the Holiday Inn Resort Guam. A raffle conducted during the second day of the expo included a round trip ticket to Guam via Continental Micronesia with accommodations and breakfast provided by Holiday Inn Resort, located on Guam's tourism center, Tumon Bay. The prize also included a dinner show for two at SandCastle, passes for underwater world and dinner at Jimmy Dee's Sunset Fiesta.

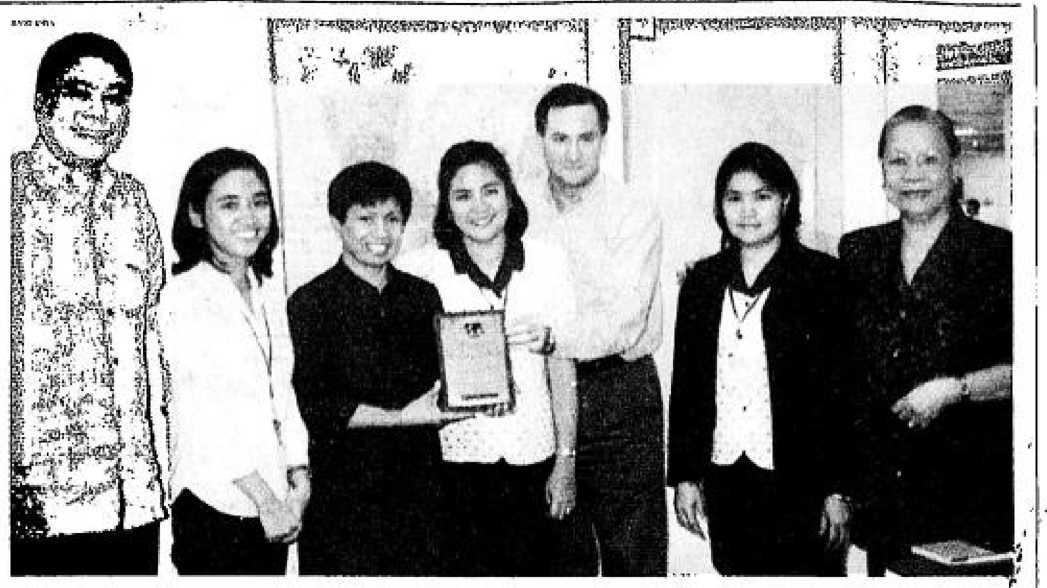
For more information regarding the Island of Guam, visit www.visitguam.org or call (632) 753-2556/57.

Pravia Residence Hotel addresses housing need

GREENFIELD Development Corporation (GDC) and Property Partnership Inc. (PPI) recently formalized an agreement for PPI to develop the Pravia Residence Hotel in the Sta. Rosa Business Park (SRBP). Due to the business boom in the area, there has been a steady rise in demand for adequate lodging that services the needs of the corporate community.

Pravia Hotel is a proposed 9 story structure, seven of which will be first class serviced apartment units comprised of 105 comfortable residential units. A unique feature of this project is the IBO (Invest-Build-Own) Comunidades investment model, wherein PPI will assemble a group of investors and collectively make them the developer. This will effectively eliminate the traditional developer mark-up, allowing the units to be purchased at cost while simultaneously providing safeguards against investor risk.

In addition, investors will be able to generate very attractive income on their units by having their units operated and managed as a residence hotel (a.k.a. serviced apartment). For more inquiries on how to invest in Pravia, call 815-1759.



SCHOLASTIC, the publisher of the phenomenal "Harry Potter" books, recently presented a plaque of recognition to National Bookstore for its outstanding sales of the series in Southeast Asia. Seth Russo, vice president and director for international sales and marketing of Scholastic (third from right), presented the recognition to Letty Cid, NBS marketing manager. With them are (from right) Socorro Ramos, NBS general manager; Girlie Martinaza, children's book buyer; Cel Santillan, business and management book buyer; Karen Alba, ads and promo for children's books; and Benjie Ocampo, Scholastic Philippines representative.

THE MICLAT family in 1994; (from left) Alma, Maningning, Banaue and Mario

Resurrecting Maningning Miclat

By Elizabeth Lolarga

THE IMAGE of a beautiful, gifted, youthful woman plunging to her death seven stories below has not ceased to affect members of the literary and art community. The profound reverberations of poet-painter Maningning Cruz Miclat's suicide last year are emerging.

A rich harvest of verses is being compiled into an anthology in her memory with her pen-and-ink drawings and AAP Grand Prize-winning painting "Trouble in Paradise" illustrating this Anvil book to be released in September in time for her, first death anniversary. The book's title is "Beauty for Ashes," which is a phrase from the book of Isaiah 6:13 ("To console those who mourn in Zion, to give them beauty for ashes."

Alma Miclat, Maningning's mother, said the book is just one of the projects of the newly formed Maningning Miclat Art Foundation Inc. Set up to recognize and promote Filipino and other Asian talents age 28 (the age at which she died) and below, the organization sprang initially from a suggestion of some Miclat relatives to find a place to house her paintings. They were moved by the tributes and eulogies at her wake.

Later, in a case of serendipity, Alma ran into Chuki Feria-Miranda, daughter of the late writer Dolores Stephens Feria and head of the Punla sa Tao Foundation, at feminist Raquel Tiglao's wake. There they started talking about a foundation that would see and nurture the potential of writers and artists in much the same manner that the parents of Maningning went out of their way to develop her early promise.

Young painter

While they were still living in China in the '70s and early '80s, Mario, her father, and Alma found a master to teach their daughter The Four Gentlemen's Method of Chinese painting. She learned to execute brushworks of bamboo, orchids, chrysanthemums and plum blossoms.

Back in the Philippines after the 1986 Edsa Revolt, they next sought to nurture her poetry, which she had started writing in Chinese. Why not Filipino? they asked her, then enrolled her at Virgilio Almario's Poetry Clinic. After the clinic, she joined the poets' group Linangan sa Imagen, Retorika at Anyo.

Alma envisions the foundation to offer that kind of apprenticeship, a linking up of a master or mentor who can do something for a young talent. She said, "We would like to have more Maningnings in this world and in our own small way, we will try to harness these talents. We will seek out those others who not only have no money but don't enjoy the support of their parents."

Incorporated on April 15 this year, what would have been Maningning's 29th birthday and coincidentally the Feast of the Resurrection (Easter), the foundation is made up of Alma and Mario, Chuki, Herman Gamboa of the Systems Technology Institute, businessman Maynard Halili, Joaquin Sy of the Kaisa Heritage Center, James T. C. Na of World News and the Society of Contemporary Art and Literature, Dr. Edna Manlapaz of the Ateneo Library of Women's Writings (Aliww) and Ding Ramos of Data Center Design Corp.

Meticulous

Alma felt Maningning's "precise and meticulous hand" is still working, particularly in the selection of incorporators. First, she discovered that her deceased daughter left a stash of $2,200, probably saved from her trips abroad and sales of paintings. She decided that the amount would be used as seed money for the foundation. It was time to look for donors who could match the savings.

She met Maynard at a tribute to Maningning and the late Tagumpay Mangahas, son of Roger and Fe Mangahas. When Alma was asked to respond at the opening of Maningning's exhibit of memorabilia at Aliww, she announced the need for donors to the foundation. It will also earn from the royalties of the sales of the book of poems "Voice from the Underworld" and other future books like a planned collection of essays by Mario and his late daughter. Right away, Maynard volunteered to match Maningning's savings. Touched, Alma wept.

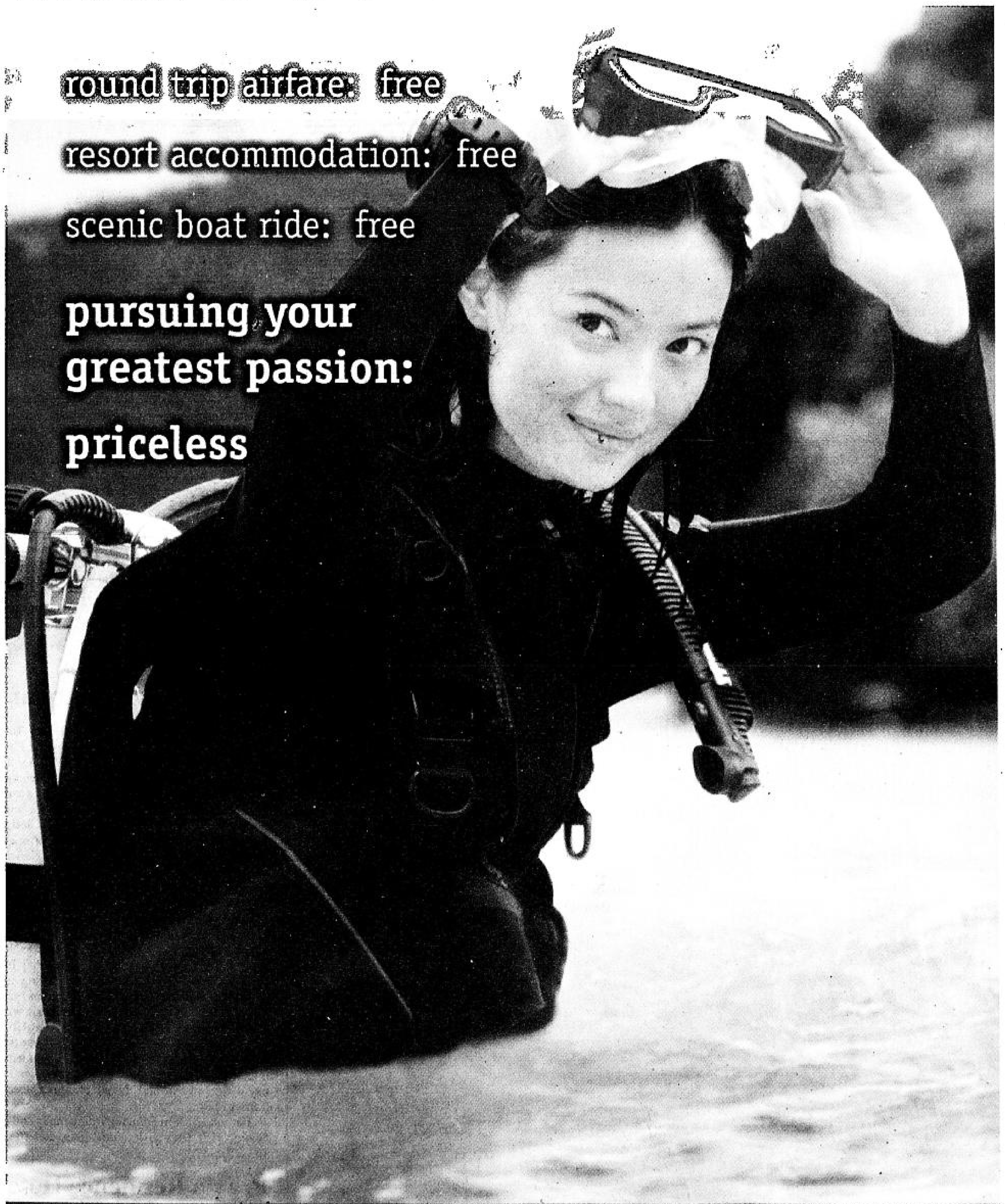
During the same occasion, National Artist Napoleon Abueva, who did Maningning's death mask, described her in these terms—there are only two kinds of people in this world: the giver and the taker. Maningning was definitely a giver.

Nurtured

Edna, meanwhile, nurtured Maningning from the time the latter turned over her memorabilia (three volumes of studies submitted to Roberto Chabet's art class, drafts of poems and short stories, and calligraphy) to Aliww. Maningning also contributed Chinese poems to World News under James. These poems were later gathered in her first book "My Poems." Chuki's link is her mother who was Maningning's guardian in Baguio during her freshman year there. Alma tapped Ding, a certified public accountant, because he is "a finance expert who can mandate the money well and make it grow."

The vision of the foundation is "to build a pan-Asian community of young artists exemplified by Maningning Miclat in her life." In this regard, it will periodically give an award in her name for excellence in poetry and painting, undertake creative programs like exhibits, poetry readings and book launchings in collaboration with other organizations, and document artworks and memorabilia of young artless beginning with Maningning.

In a way it can be said Maningning lives on.



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